

**Florin Japanese American Citizens League
Oral History Project**
California Civil Liberties Public Education Program Grant

Oral History Interview

with

ROBERT ICHIJ I KASHIWAGI

May 24, 1998

Sacramento, California

By Christine Asoo Umeda

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Florin JACL Oral History Project

Japanese American Citizens League, Florin Chapter

California Civil Liberties Public Education Program Grant

MISSION STATEMENT

To collect and preserve the historical record of the multigenerational experience of Japanese Americans and others who befriended them. The books produced will enhance the California State University, Sacramento/Japanese American Archival Collection (CSUS/JAAC) housed in the CSUS Archives for study, research, teaching and exhibition. This unique collection of life histories provides a permanent resource for the use of American and international scholars, researchers and faculty, as well as a lesson for future generations to appreciate the process of protecting and preserving the United States Constitution and America's democratic principles.

PREFACE

The Florin JACL Oral History Project provides completed books and tapes of Oral Histories presented to the interviewed subjects, to the California State University, Sacramento/Japanese American Archival Collection (CSUS/JAAC), and to the Florin JACL Chapter. Copyright is held by the Florin JACL Chapter and California State University, Sacramento. Photocopying is limited to a maximum of 20 pages per volume.

This project will continue the mission of the Florin JACL Oral History Project which began in 1987 and recognized the necessity of interviewing Japanese Americans: "We have conducted these interviews with feelings of urgency. If we are to come away with lessons from this historic tragedy, we must listen to and become acquainted with the people who were there. Many of these historians are in their seventies, eighties and nineties. We are grateful that they were willing to share their experiences and to answer our questions with openness and thoughtfulness." This same urgency to conduct interviews was felt by the North Central Valley JACL Chapters of French Camp, Lodi, Placer County, and Stockton in 1997-98 as a consortium joining the Florin Chapter in obtaining funding from the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund (CLPEF). And now, again under the Florin Chapter banner, more life histories will be told with the generous funding from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP).

The Oral Histories in the Japanese American Archival Collection relate the personal stories of the events surrounding the exclusion, forced removal and internment of American citizens and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry. There is a wide variety of interviews of former internees, military personnel, people who befriended the Japanese Americans, Caucasians who worked in the internment camps and others, whose stories will serve to inform the public of the fundamental injustice of the government's action in the detention of the Japanese aliens and "non-aliens" (the government's designation of U.S. citizens), so that the causes and circumstances of this and similar events may be illuminated and understood.

The population of those who lived through the World War II years is rapidly diminishing, and in a few years, will altogether vanish. Their stories must be preserved for the historians and researchers today and in the future.

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INTERVIEW HISTORY

Interviewer

Christine Umeda, Member of the Florin Chapter, Japanese American Citizens League, Oral History Project

Interview Time and Place

May 24, 1998
Home of Robert Ichiji Kashiwagi,
1212 Monte Vista Way, Sacramento, California 95831

Editor and Editing

Christine Umeda transcribed the taped interview and edited the transcript.

Robert and Lillian Kashiwagi and Christine Umeda checked the verbatim manuscript of the interview against the original tape recordings, edited for punctuation, paragraphing, and spelling, verified proper names and added material, which is enclosed in brackets.

Tapes and Interview Records

Copies of bound transcript and the tapes will be held by Florin Japanese American Citizens League and in the University Archives at the Library, California State University, Sacramento, 6000 J Street, Sacramento, California, 95819.

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

ROBERT ICHII KASHIWAGI

Robert Ichiji Kashiwagi, AKA "Bob" Kashiwagi was born on February 11, 1919 in Hayward, California. His parents were Frank Kashiwagi and Tatsu (Furusawa) Kashiwagi. His siblings included three sisters, Chiyo, Iseko June, and Kimiko and two brothers, George and Tom. Also half-siblings; brother, Joseph, and sisters, Suzu and Miwako.

Bob graduated from Woodland High School in 1937 and later attended Sacramento City College as a Business Major.

In 1943 Bob volunteered for the U. S. Army from Amache Relocation Camp. He joined the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, an all Japanese-American regiment. He was a member of Company "K" and served in ground combat in Italy in the Rome-Arno and northern Appennines, and in military operations in France including the rescue of the "Texas Lost Battalion" and Le Havre Port Marine MTC. Bob was honorably discharged from the U. S. Army in December 1945.

In November 1947 he married Lillian Miyeko Asoo. They have three children, Gordon Alan, Cathleen Joy and Kerry Dean. As well as four grandchildren; Tina Michiko and Alan Toshiro Kashiwagi and Jennifer Miyeko and Leah Milani Nishizaki.

Bob was the first Japanese American hired by the Division of Highway Equipment Department in 1947. He retired as a Parts Manager in 1979 following 32 years of service with the State of California, Caltrans Department.

His numerous civic and community activities includes: Life member of VFW Nisei Post 8985 and Disabled American Veterans #6, Advancement Chairman for the Boys Scouts of America Troop 250, Elder in the Parkview Presbyterian Church, Presenter at numerous schools and organizations regarding the Japanese American experience and Constitutional issues, Resource leader at the Jan Ken Po Gakko, a Japanese American cultural school for children, Handicapper for Getsuyo "Monday" Golf Club and volunteer at the Sacramento City College library.

Bob is enjoying the retirement years with his beloved wife, Lillian, cooking, caring for grandchildren, golfing and reunions with members of Company "K". In 1997 they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends hosted by their children.

NAMES LIST

Florin Japanese American Citizens League
Oral History Project'

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Interviewees | Robert Ichiji Kashiwagi |
| Interviewers | Christine Asoo Umeda |
| Cooperating Institutions | Oral History Program, Center of California Studies, <u>California State University, Sacramento, California</u> |

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[May 24, 1998]

[Begin Tape 1, Side A]

C. UMEDA: This is an oral history interview conducted on May 24, 1998, with Robert Ichiji Kashiwagi. The interview is being conducted in his home at 1212 Monte Vista Way, Sacramento, California. This oral history interview is being conducted as part of the Florin JACL oral history project. The interviewer is Christine Umeda.

Okay, Bob. Thank you very much for consenting to be, participate in this our oral history project. And let's begin. I'd like for you to tell us, in your words, give us a little bit of background history and information on you, you're family members - your siblings, your parents and your grandparents. As much information as you can, biographical and any other details you'd like to present. Okay.

R. KASHIWAGI: What I have to report may not be in chronological order but I would like to pick up a few points that was entered in a Yolo county history that was printed many years ago before the war. And, the information pertaining to my parents and grandparents, it would be the only available source, was this particular information in this booklet.

Now Frank Kashiwagi, who was my parent, my father, was born in Japan in 1876 near the city of Yokohama. And he is the son of T., now I don't know what that T stands for, but it's T. Kashiwagi. Who was well known in his native province in Japan at the time of his residence there. And then the marriage of Frank's parents was contracted according to Japanese tradition. And, T. Kashiwagi having immigrated to the United States, his father chose his future daughter-in-law, he passed her photograph to his son. And then shortly thereafter she engaged in passage and embarked for America after they were married.

C. UMEDA: Okay, let me stop you there.

R. KASHIWAGI: Okay.

C. UMEDA: That Frank was married in Japan and then came to America, was your father?

R. KASHIWAGI: Okay now, yeah, they were married. Now there is a little more to this. Accordingly she was known as a picture bride. The original picture brides that are noted in histories in California and US history. The couple spent several years in this country and then returned to

R. KASHIWAGI: Japan where Frank and his two brothers and two sisters were born.

Frank received his schooling in Japan at an early age and under the tutelage of his father he learned the business of farming. He continued with his father's tutoring until he felt qualified to start out for himself. So, hearing of the wonders of America, Frank made the decision in 1896 to come here and establish a business. Upon his arrival he worked for two years in northern parts of California, and I believe, I recall him saying he bought standing redwood timbers at Redwood City and he would fell the timbers and prepare fence posts and grape stakes. He was shipping those fence posts and grape stakes to Elk Grove, Florin and Lodi areas by the trainloads. He did that for several years and he then decided to go further so he began to, more-or-less, go into regular type of farming in Vorden, California.

C. UMEDA: Oh, Vorden?

R. KASHIWAGI: Oh, B O R D E N.

C. UMEDA: Oh I see.

R. KASHIWAGI: It would be near, I suppose what is it, near Lodi, and that area.

There's a little farming community there.

C. UMEDA: Oh, all right. Okay.

R. KASHIWAGI: They raised fruits, mostly. And then in 1906, my father Frank was married in Hayward to T. Shinomiya. And she died in 1916, leaving three children, Joseph, Suzu and Miwako. And then his second marriage took place in Japan in 1916 to Tatsu Furusawa.

R. KASHIWAGI: Accompanied by his wife, he returned to California where he resided in Hayward for a number of years. And all of their six children were born in the city of Hayward. Actually there was one more child, which was unnamed but at that point, died in early infancy, so I don't think that that child was named but buried in the Knights Landing cemetery.

Chiyo is the oldest. And then myself, Ichiji, and then George, Iseko, Kimiko, and Tommy. So, to continue with my father, Frank, he worked as a foreman for the Meeks Ranch in Hayward, which was covering nearly six thousand acres at that time. Then he later transferred to Knights Landing because the Meeks Estate was being sold for redevelopment or residential building, and so he was transferred to some holdings in Knights Landing. That's where I spent most of my childhood. Now I would like to continue with the siblings.

Chiyo Murakami, is the oldest sister. Was born on July 29, 1917, and she was placed at rest on September 25, 1990. She graduated from Woodland High School as class valedictorian. Received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California at Berkeley. And also being that she was now in camp, at Amache, Colorado, her diploma was mailed to her, to the Amache Relocation Camp. Chiyo moved to Chicago. Married Tad Murakami, had two sons and one daughter. She joined Dr. I. Davidson in a research team

R. KASHIWAGI: that helped develop the mononucleosis spot test and test on Sickle cells anemia. She retired as manager of the Westlake Community Hospital Laboratory with over 25 years of service.

Now George, skipping myself, George Kashiwagi was next in line but born December 8, 1921, and was the first volunteer from the Amache Relocation Camp. He was assigned as forward observer for the 522 Field Artillery, which was part of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and wound up in Germany to help open the gates and liberate the inmates at the Dachau Extermination Camp. He survived the war and retired after twenty years of service with the US Army and he died on January of 1994.

Next in line was June Iseko Yokote. Born June 25, 1922, died December 1996. She graduated from the Woodland High School as valedictorian, graduated from the John Seally Hospital School for Nursing in the Cadet Nurse program in Galveston, Texas. Received a BA degree from the College of Holy Names in Oakland. And received an MA degree from the San Francisco State University, Professor Emeritus from the Contra Costa College. Was married to Roy Yokote and had one son and one daughter and two grandsons.

Kimi Kashiwagi, I don't have too much information on, was, born in 1923 but I don't recall, I don't have no way I could look up the month of her birth. Was interned at Amache Relocation Camp, moved to Chicago, Illinois during the war and worked as a

R. KASHIWAGI: receptionist for a dental office, and married to Sam Matsutani. They had no children and she passed away September 11, 1987.

Then came Tom Kashiwagi, the, not exactly the youngest but the surviving, youngest. Born December 29, 1925, married to Chiz Tateishi. Has one son and one daughter. Retired from the City Corporation Yard as foreman, after 38 years of service.

Now, I'll continue with myself. I was born in Hayward, California, entered San Lorenzo Grammar School and moved to Knights Landings.

C. UMEDA: Bob, what year were you born, give me the dates?

R. KASHIWAGI: My birth date is February 11, 1919. And I'll continue we moved to Knights Landings in my third grade and our home, being located two miles from town and being isolated, we grew up without any close neighbors. Besides, family chores kept us occupied with no activity outside of school. However we boys kept ourselves amused by hunting and fishing, to put food on our dinner table. After completing Grammar School, I bused 12 miles to Woodland High School. As we had very little contact with other Japanese family, I mixed with Caucasian boys. This did not help me to pal around with Japanese children, as I was unable to converse with them in Japanese. Being able to speak English without the handicap of talking with an accent, my teacher, especially in math and English, favored me to lead the class. And I took part in several club activities, such as

R. KASHIWAGI: astronomy and even served as the President of the Japanese Student Club. I graduated from the Woodland High School in the class of 1937, having been included in the upper 10 percent of the class scholastically, and having followed an academic course, I had hoped to continue my education in the University of California, Berkeley. However, as my older sister was already enrolled there, and I was needed on the farm for farm work, I was resigned to the fact that I would need to support our large family. And this is as far as, I can go back into my early childhood.

C. UMEDA: I see. I wonder, Bob, do you recall any incidents or little stories about you? You had mentioned that at Woodland High, you didn't have other close Japanese classmates. Can you relate any particular stories or incidents between you and your Caucasian friends?

R. KASHIWAGI: Well, this is [Laughter] very interesting, situation where I was unable to speak Japanese fluently and those Japanese boys that were attending school spoke mostly Japanese in their little group. I was unable to mix with them. They would congregate in one corner of the basement and they all have their conversation and have fun, and here I'm with several Caucasian fellows and were having our a little get together and talking in another corner. So, as far as, I am concerned, why I had no other means of learning to use Japanese. That's why I'm very limited in the ability to converse with the Japanese people.

C. UMEDA: Right. Now your parents spoke Japanese?

R. KASHIWAGI: They did, and we in turn returned the answer in broken English, and so they had to learn a little bit of English.

C. UMEDA: So you... but you did understand a little Japanese, but not fluently?

R. KASHIWAGI: This is a typical Japanese, as far as we're concerned, we can understand the Japanese questions, as put to us, but we were unable to express ourselves in Japanese. And so, we would be one of those situations where we don't have two person dialogue and so that's why we never had too much of an early, you might say, relationship with our parents. Because we couldn't understand them completely.

C. UMEDA: Okay. So, growing up in Woodland, then, did any of your siblings take Japanese language school?

R. KASHIWAGI: This is going towards the latter part of my Woodland High School's days...

C. UMEDA: How about in Hayward?

R. KASHIWAGI: Hayward, there was no Japanese there. We were too young, because we left Hayward when I was in the third grade.

C. UMEDA: Oh, I see.

R. KASHIWAGI: We were too young, and so, when we got to Knights Landing, we were still in the grammar school, so we had no place to be studying Japanese, and there was no means of learning Japanese because there was no Japanese around there.

C. UMEDA: Oh, okay.

R. KASHIWAGI: But then when I did go to Woodland, there was a small community there. They decided they would like to continue the Japanese language instruction to the children and so we, had like Reverend Koga and a few other people come to Woodland once every week, on a Saturday, to teach us Japanese. And so, we did that, but I primarily went there to eat my lunch and I didn't learn too much. And, of course we knew, we learned our discipline such as, cleaning up the room, as we finished our school, class period. You know like, sweeping, and mopping and tiding up the desks. And this is where we learned all those chores. In our later day we..., that's when we learn to be tidy and be a little bit more, you know, helpful.

C. UMEDA: Okay, you were saying that you had aspirations, or you wanted to go to go to University of California at Berkeley, but were not, unable to because you needed to help on the farm. This was all prior to war right?

R. KASHIWAGI: This had to be before the war because I graduated in 1937.

C. UMEDA: Okay.

R. KASHIWAGI: And all my academic credits were in, what they call, academic following required English and Math as required to continue on to Berkeley.

C. UMEDA: Okay, so if you could pick up your story now and tell me a little bit about what it was like after you came back and worked on the farm, leading up to internment?

R. KASHIWAGI: Well, at that point in 1937, I graduated from Woodland High School and then remained there on the farm. There was no other reason. But there was a, kind of an incidents involved just about when Pearl Harbor has happened, but I would like to continue on some of the things. It's not in chronological order but I do have information included in whatever notes that I have prepared for myself.

Now, as I continue, I graduated in 1937. And I worked much long hours and not even getting any allowance for full-time work. And I became very disgusted with this arrangement. Even more so when my mother, with the prompting from my father, kept pressuring me to work harder so as not to hold back the dozens of Filipino workers we employed. And about that time, as my evenings were free, I joined the YMCA and participated in their program, mostly in club areas.

The world situation was getting serious by then, so the United States initiated the draft system. And as I was the President of the Japanese Club, sponsored by the YMCA, I arranged to send off, you know, I arranged one of those send off party for each Nisei draftee from Woodland. And in order to make it more meaningful, I would invite as many of the school and city officials to these send off parties. Eventually my number came up and I was drafted in November of 1941.

C. UMEDA: Oh, so you were drafted prior to the internment?

R. KASHIWAGI: Absolutely, right.

C. UMEDA: Okay.

R. KASHIWAGI: Having just completed harvesting our tomato crop, and having had to put in almost 18 – 20 hours of work, six days a week. My weight was down to 105 lbs. The minimum weight accepted by the Army was 115. And so I talked the Examiner to make my weight record, record as 115 lbs. But this still did not help me as the doctor rejected me for an abnormal x-ray of my lung.

After my rejection from the Army I went to Pescadero with our Filipino friend to harvest brussel sprouts. Brussel sprouts had to be picked every day, rain or shine. So it was my first experience where I worked in drenching rain all day. It was during this period that Pearl Harbor attack happened and it was a Sunday. And I was walking this seashore looking for any eatable items I could use to supplement boiled broccoli and rice for dinner. As I got back to my hut, I found many of the Filipino workers listening to the radio, and many were crying because of the news of their home being under attack. As the news got progressively grave, my Filipino friend, Ceriaco, thought it would be wiser to go home, back to Woodland.

The trip was not without incident, as we had a problem trying to cross the Carquinez Bridge, as it was under guard by the military. And to make matters worse, we had a flat tire. Because I was traveling with a Filipino, the guard eventually let me go to travel on home. The County Health Department caught up with me because of

R. KASWHIAGI: my abnormal x-ray of my lung and advised me to enter the Colfax Tuberculosis Sanitarium.

And when the Executive Order 9066 was signed by President Franklin Roosevelt on February 19, 1942, my doctor faced a problem as to what to do with me for being the only Japanese in the hospital. I left the hospital at that point and joined my family.

C. UMEDA: Did you join, did you leave the hospital against doctor's orders?

R. KASHIWAGI: No, I did not, because the doctor was really in a very precarious situation and didn't know how to get rid of me. And I said, "I'll make it easier for you, I'll just go home."

C. UMEDA: Oh, my goodness.

R. KASHIWAGI: So, I left the hospital while..., I was still bed ridden, at that point.

C. UMEDA: They were not concerned that you could be contagious?

R. KASHIWAGI: No, at that point, we finally determined that my illness was not tuberculosis, but it was coccidioidomycosis, which is a fungus disease normally, usually called, the "San Joaquin Valley Fever". And so then I left the hospital and joined my family in order that I could evacuate with the family. And when I left Woodland and boarded a train for Merced Assembly Center, the only person who came to see me off was my YMCA Director.

C. UMEDA: Can I stop you here. Before you get into actually leaving, can you tell me a little bit about how it was like to prepare to leave? The kinds of things that you, the decisions you made about what you packed and how you took things?

R. KASHIWAGI: Now that's a good point, because how could I be, thinking about what to pack, what to bring, and what to do because I was bed ridden.

C. UEMDA: ... Oh I see, so you didn't get involved in that?

R. KASHIWAGI: I was in no physical situation to help prepare the family to go, to evacuate. All I could do was tag along as excess baggage.

C. UMEDA: Oh, for heaven sake. Okay, continue.

R. KASHIWAGI: [Clears throat] Anyhow, this YMCA Director felt so sad but there was nothing he could do to help me. Although my illness was not tuberculosis but coccidioidomycosis, which is San Joaquin Valley Fever, that resulted from working long hours and run down resistance. I remained in bed with no medical aid or medication and as I was not well enough to participate in any work assignment, I joined my newly found friend, Mino Harada, who was evacuated from a large rice farm in Colusa. Mino had a job to remove sagebrush and discourage rattlesnake, using large caterpillar, bulldozer. And I would take over the bulldozer as we leveled ground for additional barracks. At that point, Camp Amache was not quite completed yet.

C. UMEDA: Okay. Bob, where did you go, what Assembly Center did you go?

R. KASHIWAGI: Merced.

C. UMEDA: You went to Merced, first. And what kind of facility was that?

R. KASHIWAGI: Yes; now it seems like this was a fair ground, where they kept the horses. And the first rude awakening was that as I got there the authorities gave each one of us a, what they called an Army body bag that they put dead soldiers in, to place them for burial. They gave us each one of those bags and we were given a big pile of straw so we could stuff it so that we could use that as a mattress. And then as we got into our little, so called compartment, this long horse shed. Why I noticed several families in a great big room and the only thing we could do to separate one family from another was to put up a double bed sheet, tie a rope on each end and string it up. And that separated one family from another.

And then another rude awakening was, as you went to the community latrine. It's a kinda of a horse trough-looking item where it was sloped a little bit and a water receptacle was on one end on top of the wall. And then it flushed down into this long horse trough with a board, 1 by, maybe, 12, with holes cut every two or three feet for, about six or eight, occupants. We sat side by side and without knowing the container would trip and would flush and if you're not ready you're going to get a shower, even though you didn't want it.

C. UMEDA: [Laughter]

R. KASHIWAGI: And we found out later that you do not sit on the end, because that was where the biggest splash was. And then, for mischievous prank you might say sort of having fun, some of the fellows would roll up a newspaper, set it afire and then let it float down the trough and made everybody stand up. ...

C. UMEDA: That was Merced?

R. KASHIWAGI: This was Merced. And that, that really was a temporary type of camp.

C. UMEDA: I see. When you went to camp did your parents and all six children go?

R. KASHIWAGI: Well, we all went together. We had to stay in a family group. Yeah, yeah. To continue, while we moved to Amache, I would join Mino whenever I felt good and was getting restless. And after being confined to bed for one year, I was getting really bored and tried anything to keep myself occupied.

And another person I became acquainted with was Ichiro Kato from Broderick, California. He loved to play cards and so we played cards. We played pinnacle, hearts and other games. All-day and only take time off to get our meals, at mealtime. Ichiro had a little more influence from his family and he leaned more towards Japan. He would argue much, we would have much heated discussions over which one of us maintained a more blind loyalty toward Japan or America. I maintained my loyalty to America but I was very

R. KASHIWAGI: outspoken on the treatment of US citizens and wrote many letters to the Denver Post Newspaper. About one year later the military recruiting team came to Amache to recruit volunteers for service in combat infantry unit slated for front line duty.

C. UMEDA: Okay, Bob, I'm going to stop you there because before you get on to that I want to ask you some questions about what camp life was like for you? You were a teenager then, about how old were you?

R. KASHIWAGI: At that time, I was already drafted and so I had to be way past 21 and already voting.

C. UMEDA: Okay, all right, so you were 21 when you went to camp?

R. KASHIWAGI: Oh yes.

C. UMEDA: Okay. And you were saying that you did a lot of things with some fellows, do you have any, can you describe what it was like in terms of eating? Did you eat with your family, your friends, what was that like?

R. KASHIWAGI: As far as meals in camp, the authorities in Amache decided that if we could maintain a family group, especially mealtime, they said we would more or less be able to keep the family together. And not go, you know, go unrestricted and hog wild and you know, become subject to temptation. And so, we ate together as a family.

Then, there's another rather interesting incident, because of the fact that I was bedridden. There's a fella, who was a Seventh Day Adventist, and he was disfigured from fire burns and all that, and he

R. KASHIWAGI: befriended me. And so he would come, we would get together and he would talk and then we would go to meals together. Being a Seventh Day Adventist, he couldn't use meat. And so, I ... , he would give me all his meat from his plate, even though it maybe mutton, he would give me the meat and I would give him the turnips in exchange. And so, whatever he can use as food, I tried to give him and whatever he can't use, he gave me. And that's how come we passed the time of the meal.

C. UMEDA: So, for your condition, then for your medical condition, there was no ongoing treatment going on?

R. KASHIWAGI: There was nothing, I could do, the hospital was not in a position to accept me. I never even attempted to bother to go to the hospital, medication, or otherwise. I just stayed in bed.

C. UEMDA: Really. I see. So there was just strictly bed rest?

R. KASHIWAGI: And then, as the time went along, people were given a chance to leave the camp to go to the nearby town, which was Granada. And so my father would take a walk, about two miles or so to camp, to town and he would go to the butcher market and pick up a steak or canned oyster, something like that with some vitamins in it. And he would bring that home and then my mother would prepare, you know like steak on a, that camp coal burning wood stove, and was feeding me and trying to build up my strength.

C. UMEDA: Oh, I see.

R. KASHIWAGI: And so, he did that for quite some time. Maybe once a week he would take a walk to town.

C. UMEDA: Oh gee, well, it means that things were starting to loosen up at camp, if that was possible.

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah because I know the authority had no, what they call, justification for keeping us in camp. And so they were not too strict about leaving or otherwise.

C. UMEDA: Okay, so Amache was in what state?

R. KASHIWAGI: It's in Colorado.

C. UMEDA: Oh, Colorado.

R. KASHIWAGI: It's the corner of Colorado and Kansas.

C. UMEDA: So, in other words, it was very isolated?

R. KASHIWAGI: It's not necessarily an Indian reservation but it was a surplus government land, primarily, a desert land. And it was of very little value as far as farming.

C. UMEDA: So there was not much, there weren't cities around? It was really isolated?

R. KASHIWAGI: There was a creek, Arkansas River that ran nearby, however, there was nothing. We were, strictly in the middle of a sagebrush area

C. UMEDA: Ummm

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah and the worse place you can think of because it was in the wintertime it would get 25 below zero. And then dust comes up every evening around five o'clock because the wind would start

R. KASHIWAGI: blowing and then all that dust would go into every bit of the, whatever you know, your room compartment. You'd find dust into everything.

C. UEMEDA: Bob, what did your father do in camp?

R. KASHIWAGI: He was kind of a fellow that liked to get around and talk, but because he was not an exactly pro-Japanese, I don't think he was too welcomed in some of the groups.

C. UEMEDA: But did he have a job that he got paid for?

R. KASHIWAGI: No, he, he was too old.

C. UEMEDA: Oh, he was. Oh, okay.

R. KASHIWAGI: He was way past the employment age and my mother came down with a stroke and she was bedridden for about six months in camp, see. And so, they were in no condition to work.

C. UEMEDA: What about your siblings? Did any of them work and get paid?

R. KASHIWAGI: They all did but then my sister Chiyo and June left camp as soon as they can and moved to Chicago. George prided himself as a G-Man, and "G" standing for garbage. So he went around, up and down the street picking up garbage or trash actually and that was his job. And my brother, Tom, wound up in the dairy where he was supposed to take care of some cows and plant some vegetables and things like that. And he was, certainly, out of position there because I know for sure that he had no knowledge as to which side of the cow you milk from. He had no dairy experience.

- C. UMEDA: Did they get paid for all that service?
- R. KASHIWAGI: He was getting his regular \$12.00 or so that they paid for semi-skilled. And George, being a truck driver, he got \$12.00 semi-skilled and Chiyo worked in the hospital lab. She got her, I think professional of \$19.00, or whatever it is. And June was a nurse; she got her \$12.00. And Kimi was helping there as a nurse. So they were all employed.
- C. UMEDA: Oh good.
- R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah.
- C. UMEDA: Continue, I needed to have that little extra information.
- R. KASHIWAGI: Now, as I continue, I may repeat some of those things over again because as I look at my notes.
- C. UMEDA: That's okay.
- R. KASHIWAGI: Now when the recruiting team assembled, explained their mission and had us fill out the loyalty questionnaire, I expressed my disappointment as to the unfair wording of the question No. 27. Not for what was printed in it but what was explained to us, us, verbally by the recruiting team. The US military was only ready to accept volunteers for a segregated combat infantry unit, slated for front line duty and no other branch of the military was open for us. And I felt that this was a suicide unit, subject to grave consequence. And if anything went wrong with this unit, I was almost correct, as we suffered over 300 percent casualty in only 2 ½ years of combat.

R. KASHIWAGI: I recall several incidences when we were able to avert serious incidents even before we went across. Surprisingly, after all the debates, Ichiro and my brother, George, were the very first volunteers for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team from Amache.

C. UMEDA: Do you recall what year or month that was that you were drafted, that you signed up?

R. KASHIWAGI: The recruiting team came around late winter or early spring of 1943. And I think immediately afterwards, so called volunteers were already given instruction to move on into Camp Shelby to be trained.

C. UMEDA: I see.

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah. Now, incidentally, Ichiro was wounded very early in combat and was returned for hospitalization in the United States. My brother, George, was assigned as a forward observer for the 522 Field Artillery Battalion, and fought his way into Germany and helped to open the gates of Dachau Extermination Camp. Quite a strange story, as he volunteered from relocation camp, winds up in Germany to help liberate the inmates in extermination camp. [cough] It must be noted that the military set a goal for 3,000 volunteers to be recruited from ten relocation camps and 1,500 volunteers to be recruited from the territory from Hawaii. The recruiting team was very disappointed to get only 1,300 volunteers from the ten camps but 10,000 volunteers from Hawaii.

C. UMEDA: I'm going to pause.

R. KASHIWAGI: Now to continue on with the recruiting the volunteers from camp.

Needless to say the 1,300 or so volunteers, and their family members received much strong abuses, primarily from the "No, No Boys" and other die-hard groups who agitated us.

C. UEMEDA: What kind of things did they do?

R. KASHIWAGI: For one thing they called us very derogatory names, they ignored or more or less turned their back on us, and we more or less tried to keep away from them. And in fact, most of us who volunteered quickly went to camp to get away from this hostile atmosphere.

C. UEMEDA: Did they try, they didn't, or did they make any attempt to harm you physically?

R. KASHIWAGI: In some camp, they did try that because of word back and forth, and it becomes a little bit out of control. But other than expressing their distaste for us volunteers they did very little other, you know, as far as, damage to us.

C. UEMEDA: I see. [cough] What about treatment to your parents because you and your brothers decided to ...

R. KASHIWAGI: They, my parents, especially my father... My mother was not too well so she had no contact with the others. But my father was very much, more or less disliked because three daughters left camp and went to work in Chicago and two volunteered for the US Army and the third one was a little too young. So my father, more or less, kept away from hostile areas.

C. UMEDA: I see.

R. KASHIWAGI: Now, and so as to continue on with the "No No Boys", and that is one reason why I become very upset when those "No No Boys" were recognized as some sort of hero for taking a stand in expressing their conviction. It is very disturbing for me as I know for a fact that many of the "No No's" were questionable in their sincerity as I grew up with some of them. And my half-brother, Joe, would be one of them. The sincerity of the first volunteers, of which, there were only 1,300 of them, were more honorable. The so called first volunteer should have been given more recognition rather than to have them all lumped into a group which include the draftees, who tried to evade being drafted. When one recognize the volunteers in the 442nd, the truth of the matter is, there were very few of them, as most of the volunteers were from the Hawaiian Islands. As they were the older boys, there are only a few of them now living.

After several attempts to see if there was any option open for us rather than to accept and take it or leave it proposal by the recruiting team, I volunteered, knowing I was in for some difficult times.

[End, Tape 1, Side A]

[Begin, Tape 1, Side B]

C. UMEDA: Tape 1, Side B.

R. KASHIWAGI: [Clear throat] Since I volunteered, literally from a sick bed, and one's health did not mean much, if one volunteered for this combat unit. As I saw some under-sized and under-weight recruits training with us. There were some over-aged recruits going through basic training with us also. However, the Commanding Officer had us keep an eye on the older recruits on long and strenuous hikes. After we completed the basic training, the military wanted to see how we Orientals, would react with the huge German prisoner that were captured in North Africa.

C. UMEDA: Bob, can you tell me where you trained, where was your training?

R. KASHIWAGI: We were trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. It's located in the Southern area, so the rude awakening for us to see the treatment the Black people were receiving in the south where they have two doors to go to a theater, the Black and the White. Two drinking fountains or where your bus would be, where the Black goes to the back and the White goes to the front. Well we had to go through that and it was a rude awakening. Especially to the Hawaiians, to have to see something like that going on in this day and age. Where they had that prejudice, you know. Actually method of how they hold down a

R. KASHIWAGI: certain race of people because of their race. And so it was really a rude awakening to us.

We didn't know where we'd fit in. So without thinking, when I was in Chicago and going back to Cincinnati and I was traveling with a Black soldier in uniform and we got to Birmingham, Alabama. They removed us off the train and then reloaded us, separating the Black and the White. And I didn't know which way to go. And so I went with the Black. A soldier stopped me and said, "No, you go with the White." And that was a very embarrassing ah, situation to see where this fellow that I came all the way from Chicago had to separate from me because he was Black. [Cough] We were sent to Troy, Alabama, to guard some German prisoners as they helped to harvest peanuts for the farmers. And we got along fine as these prisoners were tired of fighting and we were very at ease with them.

C. UMEDA: Now, can you tell me these German soldiers were from what campaign?

R. KASHIWAGI: From North Africa campaign, in Africa core-campaign, in North Africa, the early part of the conflict. And most of them were British captured German prisoners. And they were the cream of the crop, more or less, equal to an SS trooper of the German Army.

C. UMEDA: Really, were they a part of Rommells?

R. KASHIWAGI: They are, this is the Rommell group.

C. UMEDA: Oh, they are, okay.

R. KASHIWAGI: And so they wanted to see how we reacted with them. And we reacted very nicely, like good buddy, buddies. [Chuckle] Well after some fights with other Caucasian soldiers, who resented us Orientals dancing with Caucasian girls at the USO Clubs? And several incidents of the Hawaiian boys fatally injuring prejudiced bus driver, who treated them as they treated Black people. We climaxed our last few days in the US with a free-for-all at the point of evacuation, or embarkation. Fortunately, our boys were unable to secure guns and ammunition from locked ordinance room, otherwise there might have been a different ending to the 442nd story. [Laughter]

The majority of the 442nd boarded a Victory Freighter at Newport News, Virginia, and joined a 250 ship convoy sailing for North Africa on a zigzag route, traveling at the speed of the slowest ship, that was about four knots an hour. This meant it took a long time to go across and the worse yet of the 29 days of being sick. That was a rude awakening for me. Some days I felt a bit better so I would play cards with the others or watch the dolphins following our boat. Sailing through the Straits of Gibraltar was quite a sight with all ships going through in single file with a barrage balloon tied to each ship so as to discourage German planes from strafing us?

As the 34th Red Bull Division, to which we were assigned to was fighting in Italy, we headed for the bombed out harbor of Naples. Some of the most beautiful sights one could vision came into sight as

R. KASHIWAGI: we sailed past the area between the toe of Italy and the island of Sicily. As we were traveling very slow, the Sicilian came along side of our ship asking to exchange some blood red oranges for our cigarettes. The Sicilians would throw us some oranges as we tossed the pack of cigarettes.

As beautiful as the sights looked from our ship, we discovered how smelly and dirty everything was as we disembarked from our ship.

C. UMEDA: And you disembarked where?

R. KASHIWAGI: At Naples. What we thought was how affectionate these young kids were as they climbed all over us, we discovered to our surprise that these kids were just stealing our K-rations. After organizing our unit we then boarded an infantry landing craft and moved on to the Anzio beach head, as a reserve unit, ready for battle. The Fifth Army had just broken out of the Anzio stalemate and we're now heading for Rome. And we crossed the Rapido River, Mount Cassino, and scenes of some bitter fighting just a few months ago.

C. UMEDA: Bob, can you tell me when this was, the date, approximate date, year?

R. KASHIWAGI: This would be in 19 and 44, and possibly, just about mid-June and just before the Normandy invasion was happening. It was just about that time. It all happened about the same time. Normandy invasion and our moving into combat. The Germans decided not to defend Rome so as not to destroy it and declared it a open city. It was a strange sight to see our unit follow thousands of mules and pack

R. KASHIWAGI: horses through some of the famous sights of Rome like the Coliseum, the Vatican, and other tourist sights. And just two miles from Rome the 100th Infantry Unit joined us at Civitavecchia, as we replaced the 517th Parachute Division to lead the Fifth Army in pursuit of the enemy into Italy.

Now to get more details of the actual combat. I was asked to submit a, some kind of a, I might say a memorial, or memo that is, that I could submit in a book that a Japanese author, Masayo Dues was writing in Japan, and which was later translated into English. And so I would like to read some of the portion of the, of the material that I submitted to her to include in her book.

C. UMEDA: Okay, can you spell her name?

R. KASHIWAGI: Masayo it would be her name, she used the Japanese....

C. UMEDA: Masayo Umezawa Dues. Oh, thank you.

R. KASHIWAGI: She and her husband, who is Caucasian, they were professors at the, of Stanford University. And what Masayo's has written her husband translated into English.

C. UMEDA: Oh, very good. And that was all put into a book?

R. KASHIWAGI: Oh yeah, the original, I have the Japanese written and now it's English.

C. UMEDA: Alright, for the record, then. The book was published called, "Unlikely Liberators – The Men of the 100th and 442nd" by Masayo Umezawa Dues. And it was copy right in 1938.

R. KASHIWAGI: '38?

C. UMEDA: That's what it says. Right here. [Laughter] Oh, oh, that's her, excuse me, that was her birth. It was copyright 1987.

R. KASHIWAGI: [Chuckle] That's right. To continue on. Following our comments that I forwarded to Masayo Dues, to be included in her book entitled the "Unlikely Liberators" and was published in Japan and translated into English by her husband, Peter Dues. My wounds received on January, rather July 17, 1944, were minor shrapnel wound, centered on my buttocks and legs. Our company was caught in artillery barrage, which was one of my most frightening experiences. Since things were hectic and disorganized and my injuries were minor, I waited until the aid station was set up the next day before I went in for medical attention.

Now Bill Kochiyama, my second scout and I literally dug our foxhole with our nose trying to get below the ground for protection from the artillery blast.

C. UMEDA: And where was this?

R. KASHIWAGI: This was in a crossroad in Italy, I believe I might be able to identify the city, if I continue. My wounds received on November 1944 was a bit more extensive and involved. And this happened after we had just relieved the "Lost Battalion", and was trying to secure our position against a counter attack. And my wounds were actually two different wounds, received at two different times. A tree burst mortar shell

R. KASHIWAGI: struck my right hand, amputated the tip of my one finger and splitting another finger open. I recognized it as a mortar shell as a large mortar shell fin landed near my feet. And I was surprised that the Germans were shooting into an area very close to their own troops. As we just destroyed a hastily set up machine gun and shot several of their riflemen.

Since my hands were bleeding profusely, I told my comrade nearby that I was going to the aid station for first aid. And I was making my way back when another barrage of tree bursts came in. And this time a 88 shell shrapnel tore into my right foot, I mean my left foot. And this was confirmed by the doctor. He saved the shell fragment for me. The hot shrapnel and pain, numbed my legs so I jumped into a nearby fox hole, occupied by a member of my company. I don't remember his name but he assured me that my foot was still attached and he wrapped a bandage on my foot. The coldness and the apprehension and the miserable wetness numbed my pain. However, I was unable to walk. A litter bearer team eventually found me and carried me to a evacuation Jeep. Ironically, as we were driving out with our four casualties on the Jeep, another artillery barrage came in and blew out one of the tires of the Jeep. Flat tire or not, there was no time for us to dilly-dally, and so we hot roded out of the area, post haste. After treatment at the aid station, I was evacuated to the 27th Evacuation Field Hospital and then to the

R. KASHIWAGI: General Hospital in Dijon, France and eventually to Whittington Barracks Hospital in Litchfield, England.

Being placed in a hospital was still not my luck as completed because I was still being tested. Since my injuries would keep me out of the action for a little while, I was to be evacuated to England for further hospitalization. Fifteen of us litter bound patients were put in a hospital plane, on a miserable, cold, drenching, rainy day. As we proceeded down the runway, the plane blew a tire and ran off the runway. [Chuckle] Fortunately, we were all tied down and suffered no extensive injury. One of the patients, who had extensive perforation of his abdomen and only layers of towels to keep drainage from leaking out, had a difficult time. The rest of us added to the mess while on another plane flying over English Channel on the stormy flight, throwing up, with airsickness. I'm sure the flight nurse had to use the vomit bucket, also, with the rest of us.

The quickly changing condition and ever present confusion, together with the very high frequency of casualty, there were very little buddy, buddy relationships developed and many new recruits were casualty even before we got to know their names.

Tech. Sergeant Sakamoto was one of the cadre who were; Nisei drafted in the first draft. He received extensive training but was placed on detached assignment when war was declared. I forgot where he was drafted from, other than casualty discussed in our bull

R. KASHIWAGI: session. He did not smoke, drink and set a very fine example for a non-typical platoon Sergeant. He played no favoritism, assumed his share of exposure to danger and I respected him and was willing to cooperate with him in assuming distasteful assignments.

I recall one of my most anxious and frightening tasks was to serve as his support while we walked half the night in no-mans land, trying to make contact with our supply unit. Sergeant Sakamoto's death was resulted by a typical performance on his part. Although I was first scout in the patrol moving into Luciana, Sergeant Sakamoto assumed the lead point, as it was standard procedure for the ranking person to take the lead when enemy contact is made. His death was as a result of a sniper shot that hit Sakamoto. I noticed him clutching his chest as he jumped into a ditch nearby. We immediately pulled back and ducked into a nearby cellar. A German tank was hidden in the courtyard a few hundred yards away and shot at me as I standing in the entrance of the wine cellar. He missed me and wasted an 88 shell but knocked a lot of brick on my helmet. We eventually got even as our 522 Field Artillery blasted the building on top of the tank and put it out of action. We were unable to reach Sergeant Sakamoto until dark. The medics and our chaplain, using the Red Cross flag, retrieved his body and confirmed his death as instantaneous. It is unfortunate that Sergeant Sakamoto did not receive a better recognition then he received for the example he displayed.

R. KASHIWAGI: Bill Kochiyama and I were rather compatible buddies, because we were similar in ways and we were assigned the first and second scout position. This meant that we were at the very front of the Fifth Army each time it was our turn to take the lead position. Bill's background was New York. But he was in California to attend school where he volunteered for the Army. Bill had a widowed father in New York but no other family member. I recall an incident when we were caught in artillery barrage, and incidentally, that was when I received my first shrapnel wound. Bill received a large shrapnel hole in his helmet but miraculously escaped injury. You can imagine the attention he got when others noticed the large hole in his helmet and he was still walking around. Bill was a connoisseur of good whiskey but I have never seen him over indulge. Bill was a good dancer and he gave and received much attention whenever he attended dances. It was at this dance that Bill met Mary Kochiyama first while she was an active hostess at the Jerome Relocation Camp. Mary was a very pleasant person, a bubbly personality. And I recall she wrote some interesting letters. I was very happy to see Mary and Bill's friendship develop into their eventual marriage.

The period of October 25 to the 30th, 1944, referred to the "Lost Battalion" episode, was truly a very bloody and painful as well as a very frightening period. But more than that, I recall it was a very miserable and uncomfortable experience. To be moved from a rest

R. KASHIWAGI: area where an artillery shell killed several men and destroys our field shower than to events, which were more demoralizing, all were etched a permanent scar in my mind. From a docile chore of butchering and cooking procured live rabbits, because Hawaiians in my squads were reluctant to kill rabbits and then on to killing humans were really a mind blowing experience. Because of the urgency to effect a contact with the "Lost Battalion", we were given so many quick and changeable directions that we were kept in constant state of confusion. The cold wet rain, grim, filth, added stiffness and chafing to our under garments as we were unable to change for several weeks. This added discomfort for us, not to mention the pollution it contributed to the environment.

Our intended shower and clothes change was rudely interrupted by an artillery shell that destroyed our field shower and killing and wounding several of our buddies. As our chances for warm shower and a change of clothes was abandoned, I had to do something to at least take care of my feet. I found a puddle of rainwater nearby, so as cold as it was, near freezing; I washed my feet and put on another pair of damp sock I always carried under my helmet. Those fellows that didn't take care of their feet suffered and many cases trench feet resulted. In one of the hospital I was in I found that almost 15 of the 35 patients in one ward were suffering from trench feet. Seems like many had gangrene develop and were to lose their feet.

R. KASHIWAGI: Eventually when enemy contact was made we bunch of grimy, cold, wet, miserable, scared and mad GI, charged recklessly often exposing ourselves openly to enemy fire and many incidents of commendable conducts were displayed. But only the fortunate few, especially those who survived were recognized and cited. It is really mind boggling to be laying next to the bloody and gruesome corpse, be they enemy or comrade, and having to step over them or moving them aside in order to get to our position, to pull our shift as guard or many lonely hours. And having our comrade's head blown open and his brain spilled all over, makes one very much disgusted with war.

The humorous part was not very funny at the time, but at that time several of us had been afflicted with severe stomach cramps and diarrhea in the middle of a shooting match. It resulted in my relieving the pain in my stomach at the risk of exposing my vanity to the cold elements and hot metal. The stomach cramps and diarrhea was very common because of our liberal use of raw, dry onions we found while foraging for food. I was acting Assistant Squad Leader by this time and was delegated to handle the grenade launcher. Staff Sergeant Yoshida, who eventually took command of the K Company, was my Squad Leader. And he survived the battle and eventually was given a field commission.

It was a frustrating experience to see the enemy run from obstacles that I blew up with the grenade launcher and not being able to shoot

R. KASHIWAGI: at them, as I was not equipped to do so. The gravity of the situation of the "Lost Battalion" was quite apparent as we pushed through the area, littered with airplane supply tanks filled with ammunition and supplies but they were not able to reach them. Shortly after the "Lost Battalion" was rescued, I was wounded while in the mission trying to secure our position against a counter attack.

While waiting for our transportation home from Europe, I was assigned to a port marine maintenance, at that point, in La Harve, France. And I was placed in charge of a motor pool and was assigned 15 German prisoner of war and three enlisted men to maintain and repair the motor pool vehicles. One of our enlisted men was Al Whitkowski, a tall Polack, who spoke Polish and I did not speak German. I used Al to interpret for me with the German who spoke Polish. It was a comical sight to see me and Al working around the German prisoners. And we were known as Mutt and Jeff. Al being 6'3 and I being 5'4, what a comical sight. Both VE Day and VJ Day happened while I was stationed at La Harve. It was the more pleasant experience I encountered in Europe.

In the evening when our day's work was over, we would fish for Bonita and mackerel in the La Harve harbor. As we were quartered in the old bombed out, dry-dock where Normandy was birthed, we had access to whatever equipment that were usable. We had many a delicious fish fry; however, a thousand of huge rats did bother us.

R. KASHIWAGI: La Harve was literally destroyed with American bombs just before the invasion. So consequently the inhabitants were not very friendly with us. We were discouraged from mingling with the residents and limited our sightseein' and exploring. Eventually my discharge points were adding up and I was moved over to the staging area to wait for transportation back to America.

C. UMEDA: Bob, what year was, or what month and year was that in La Harve, France?

R. KASHIWAGI: Now this would be going into 1945, I believe. I was discharged from the hospital in April, so it was soon after that. It was almost getting to the summer months and through the summer months.

C. UMEDA: And when was Normandy?

R. KASHIWAGI: Normandy was June 20, '44.

C. UMEDA: Okay.

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah.

C. UMEDA: And then you're saying..

R. KASHIWAGI: This was '45.

C. UMEDA: Okay and then, the "Lost Battalion" was when?

R. KASHIWAGI: Forty-four, November, I think I mentioned the dates of....

C. UMEDA: Oh, I guess you did.

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah.

C. UMEDA: Thank you.

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, October to up and including November about second or third, yeah.

C. UMEDA: Thank you.

R. KASHIWAGI: [Clearing throat] Now to continue on. My discharge points were adding up and I was moved over to a staging area to wait for transportation back to America. And while awaiting for my transportation I ran into my brother, Tom, who was just arriving in Europe as an occupational force. And since his two other brothers were with the 442nd, the military felt that he should not be assigned with the same unit. Tom was assigned to an armored tank unit and was sent to Belgium to round up SS German officers to stand trial for the war crimes. Now, I might add, that I was not there but Tom received several unfortunate incidents where he ran into a land mine where he broke his leg and his jaw was broken and his mouth was tied up, holding his bones together. But, of course, being that the war was already declared over he received nothing for all that injuries. Because the war was already over.

C. UMEDA: So in another words, he wasn't, he couldn't get a Purple Heart?

R. KASHIWAGI: He got nothing for that.

C. UMEDA: Is that right.

R. KASHIWAGI: Because the war was over, see.

C. UMEDA: Also while you're at this point, can you explain to me what discharge points are?

R. KASHIWAGI: The points were, they started with the, say as much as you had and that would include one point per month of service. Overseas you got another extra point or something. And then if you got a wounded in combat you got another few points. And then if you were wounded you got an extra point. And so all this added up and those who...

C. UMEDA: ... How many points did you need to for discharge?

R. KASHIWAGI: It started with the limitless until about hundred and maybe ten or fifteen points.

C. UMEDA: I see.

R. KASHIWAGI: And then from 110 to 15 points, they dropped the points downward to 105. And when it got close to 100 points, I was there in that area, and so then I got out, see.

C. UMEDA: Oh, I see. Thank you.

R. KASHIWAGI: [Clearing throat] Now, my return to the United States was quick but painful, as I was hopelessly seasick and was unable to eat for almost seven days. My transportation was a heavy cruiser, the SS Savannah, returning to America for repairs. And we sailed a northern route by Greenland. And after reaching New York I was discharged on New Year's Eve as, this would be New Year's Eve of '45. As I forfeited the Army's instructions to stay over to have my field repaired tooth worked on, I joined my two sisters in Chicago after one month of stay in a YMCA Hotel there. I returned to Sacramento.

R. KASHIWAGI: When I reached Sacramento I discovered that my folks had no place to go so they remained in Camp Kohler, they had to pay a fee to stay there. I joined them at Camp Kohler for a month until I was able to find a home to move my folks in. It became urgent that I find work to support us and the very first place that I applied for work, the US Engineers had a person who was leaving to return to Hawaii and the position was in the motor pool, of which I was very familiar with. So I got the job. The US Engineers, naturally, has a very warm spot in me as they were the very first to hire me. This gave me a boost and built my confidence in this country.

C. UMEDA: Where was this city?

R. KASHIWAGI: This was in Sacramento.

C. UMEDA: Oh, it was.

R. KASHIWAGI: And US Engineers was the Department. The State of California was ready to assume hiring personnel on a civil service permanent employment and I applied for a position in this Division of Highways and was very fortunate to have passed high enough to be hired. And was the first Japanese to be hired in the equipment department. My first day of employment was not exactly friendly as one of the mechanics approached his foreman and threatened to quit if this "Jap" is to work here. Since I had already served several years in Europe and my duty for my country was fulfilled, and the mechanic was

R. KASHIWAGI: making money working in a warm, well you call it, garage. And so I stood my grounds and the mechanic quit his job.

Eventually, more and more Japanese were being hired by the Department; however, the higher the position began to happen, political favoritism started to play a fact, especially by some Department heads. After much patience and giving over 100 percent of my service to the Department, I retired after over 32 years of service.

The retirement did not mean that I should slow-down as I felt good and I could still contribute some good service. I therefore, enrolled in the [Sacramento] City College, took up library science and other subjects. As the City College Library was in the process of converting to computer cataloguing, I volunteered my service there for several years.

I have kept occupied with other activities, such as, Boys Scouts, church work, help as Athletic Director for the cultural Jan Ken Po Gakko, and helped the VFW [Veterans of Foreign Wars Nisei Post 8985] meet their schedules in going to various schools and organizations as they are invited to present program, especially on the subject of Day of Remembrance. Also, so as not to have all work and no play, I helped organize and served as handicapper for the "Monday" Getsuyo Golf Club, that is, if I don't disrupt my first priority of cooking our dinner, as my wife, Lillian was still working.

R. KASHIWAGI: There have been opinions expressed as to the exemplary role played by the so-called Issei [first generation] Pioneer, as compared to the older Nisei, who had assumed responsibility in helping to support the family. I myself, and some older Nisei, who have lived through the time, have a very negative opinion of many Issei, especially the men. The older Nisei had a much more difficult time trying to cope with both cultures we were subjected to. The average age of all people who were interned was 19 ½ years old. The Nisei had to adjust too much discrimination and humiliation and these humiliations were very personal. The Issei had only one culture and had no choice when discriminated, as they were foreigners. I recall and had, have been very disgusted with the selfish and macho conduct of the Issei men. They never lift a hand to care for the many kids they had. They always expected to be waited on, regardless of how hard their wives had to work, even out in the fields. I felt sorry for my mother and I at least tried to do the family laundry, especially the many sheets. The Issei mother had a much more difficult role and they suffered immensely because their husband's were gallivanting around, gambling away the family money.

As the families were pushed out of the relocation camps, the older parents were no longer able to work or care for themselves. So they were dumped on the older, responsible Nisei children. This is one of the reason why we Nisei tried to educate our children and give them a

R. KASHIWAGI: better chance for life. Unfortunately, some children did take advantage of this situation and squandered away their opportunity.

Now as we approach the autumn part of our life, we tried to make ourselves independent and self-sustaining as much as possible. Minimize our dependency on others and also try to remain as active as much as possible. My wife and I try to keep active by traveling, keep up with our ballroom dancing club, church choir. And trying to enjoy life to the fullest each day. Unfortunately, my wife just recently had a medical set back but she is trying hard to get back to her activities.

And so this is about all I could contribute other than maybe a comment or two in regards to what I would like to suggest as a kinda of a, after thought or whatever it is to leave to our children and grandchildren. Well, I would just like to state that that having lived through much prejudicial experiences during my early childhood and mostly as a result because we were the only Japanese family living in small White community, I have become very sensitive to conducts of racial prejudice. The value I would like to leave to my offspring is to be tolerant of others, especially people of other different heritage, support your community wherever you are able to contribute for others and also honor your commitments.

C. UMEDA: Great. Well, I really appreciate your doing that in advance Bob because it sort of helped to, you know, ensure that the points that we

C. UMEDA: wanted to cover were covered. But I was taking notes and listening and there are some areas that I wanted to go back and particularly highlight. And I guess where you skimmed over a little bit, if you can, after the war you came back, you said that your parents were unable to come back to resettle because there was no home for them and you helped to settle them. What time of year was that that you returned to Sacramento?

R. KASHIWAGI: This was, it had to be very possibly late winter or getting close to spring.

C. UMEDA: Oh that was 1946.

R. KASHIWAGI: Yes.

C. UMEDA: Okay. Now, what I'm trying to lead up to is, aside from your work, you were still a young man, single, so what kind of activities did you start getting involved in and I guess I want you to lead up to a point where you met Lillian Asoo?

R. KASHIWAGI: Well, this is rather, possibly a confused point of view. Not too many Nisei, who had gone through the relocation, then served and then come back and find that they have no home to go back to, and then to be straddled with the responsibility of taking care of a parent or two parents that were unable to support themselves. So this is the situation where we were. As far as myself, I had enough points to continue higher education. And I just finished high school and I earned enough credits to enroll in the colleges. But how could I

R. KASHIWAGI: enroll in colleges when I have two parents to support. And so that means I had to go to work, and which I did. Now, as I got back to California from Chicago, I found that my folks had no home and found them in Camp Kohler.

C. UMEDA: And where was this Camp?

R. KASHIWAGI: This Camp Kohler is Walerga.

C. UMEDA: Oh, it was. Oh, I see.

R. KASHIWAGI: And they just renamed it after the Japanese were moved out, they called it Camp Kohler. And the Signal Corp moved in.

C. UMEDA: I see.

R. KASHIWAGI: And so the War Relocation permitted the Japanese who had no home to go there, but they charged them for their room and board.

C. UMEDA: My God.

R. KASHIWAGI: And so that's where I went until I was able to find a home and move them out.

C. UMEDA: I see.

R. KASHIWAGI: With that I it was very apparent that I needed to find some stable employment. And ready to beg for some kinda of job. And fortunately US Engineer hired me in my first attempt. Then as the hiring had opened up in the State of California, then I took my first move and took the Civil Service Exam and was hired the first Japanese to be hired by the Division of Highways in the equipment department.

C. UMEDA: Thank you. So where did, what kind of outside activities were you involved in at that time and what, how, what led to you meeting Lillian?

R. KASHIWAGI: Well, now see, after I found a home, which was about a month or two after I got to Camp Kohler, and moved out. Then I needed to get back into the community and so I started to attend church. And the first church I could come into contact with, as some of the fellas like George Masuda and a few others were attending the Parkview Presbyterian Church. They advised me, "Why don't you come along." And so, I did go along.

C. UMEDA: And how did you meet George Masuda?

R. KASHIWAGI: Well through Sam [Kanai] the Barber. He was barbering. [Laughter] And we got our haircuts there. They were talking about things like that. "Sam the Barber" is my brother-in-law, so [Laughter] we go there to gossip and so forth. With that I got more and more involved with the Parkview Church's activities. I joined this, what they called a fellowship, the three churches, Baptist, Methodist and ah Presbyterian. And we met back and forth, visited different churches at different times.

And at that time I had a car so I was transporting, whoever wanted or needed a ride, I would, drive them. And one time, one day well, as we were waiting for everybody to assemble, it was a cold, wet, not exactly wet but cold, windy day and, Lillian was there and just

R. KASHIWAGI: decided to come to the fellowship also. And so she asked that if she could, "Step in the car to get out of the wind". So I said, "By all means." And so she got in and we went to Stockton at that time. Why the next day I noticed an extra glove sitting in the back seat there. And I just said, "Oh, Oh, that", the only person I could think of had a glove was Lillian." And so I found out where she lived and I delivered it. And from there one thing led to another and we began to go out together. And ah, ...and ah....

C. UMEDA: So how long did you think your courtship?

R. KASHIWAGI: Oh, this was not too long. I would say, this was wintertime see and, and, you got to remember we were married in November. So it was just a matter of just a few months or so. Tom was already back from Europe and Tom and Chizu were going, you know, together for quite some time already. Even from high school days. And so, I use to drive them around and then we'd doubled dated, Tom, Chizu, Lillian and I. And this is how we developed our friendship and so on.

C. UMEDA: Humm, hummm. And so you were married, so you and Lillian were married in?

R. KASHIWAGI: In '47, in November 2nd.

C. UMEDA: I can remember going along on one of the activities of the youth group. I remember an incident where you had a swimming picnic along one of the rivers.

R. KASHIWAGI: This was Putah Creek.

C. UMEDA: Oh, and where is that located?

R. KASHIWAGI: That's close to Winters.

C. UMEDA: Ohhhh, I see.

R. KASHIWAGI: That was one of the more popular summers outing area. And so we went all the way to Putah Creek to dangle our feet in the water, and play ball and have a nice picnic. And we, you know, had a nice time over there. I got to know more and more people. And then about that time, the Nisei ladies had a little Club going, the Puella Societa, I guess Society, where they had a little dancing group. Not necessarily church activities of fun. And so I would attend those dances with Lil and other functions.

C. UMEDA: We're asking Lillian now to join our interview since she also has good information to add to this part of the, Bob's history. And since we're talking about how Bob met Lillian, leading up to their marriage, I thought it would be a good place to have Lillian add some of her memories or some little stories that she might remember about their courtship.

Okay, Lillian, what do you remember about some of your courtship, or anything about that time?

L. KASHIWAGI: Well I remember the first time that I really met or got to know Bob is, when, like he mentioned that I left my gloves in his car. I remember the time that I was waiting outside, it was cold and so I finally got enough courage and walked up to him and said "Could I get in the car

L. KASHIWAGI: and warm up.” And he said, “Sure.” So then I sat in the back seat, I, I wouldn’t dare sit in the front seat because that was a “No, No.”

[Laughter] He told me he was surprised that I’d sat in the back seat instead of the front seat. [Laughter]

R. KASHIWAGI: May I add a little incidence. About that time we were double dating, Chiz, Tom, Lil and I, the very first time I held Lillian’s hand was at the North Sacramento Theater. We were in a theater and I think it was on Del Paso Boulevard.

R. KASHIWAGI: And that was the very first time that we were getting a little bit more than just a casual hello [Laughter] situation.

C. UMEDA: That’s good.

L. KASHIWAGI: You know when he got hold of my hand, his hands sweat. I remember his hands were shaking and mine was too. [Laughter] It was so funny. I’m not used to holding hands to cross the street so I remember...

[End, Tape 1, Side B]

[Begin, Tape 2, Side A]

C. UMEDA: This is tape 2, side A, continuing on May 24, 1998. Since the tape ran out I'm going to have Lillian repeat that story about coming out of the theater with Bob.

L. KASHIWAGI: Yes, after the movie, we were coming out of the theater, we had to cross the Del Paso Boulevard and instead of holding his hand to cross, I just ran across and left him behind, [Laughter] to fend for himself. [Laughter]

R. KASHIWAGI: And there's another incident, it was almost a common incident at that time. The drive-in type of, you know so-called hamburger joint was very popular.

C. UMEDA: What was the name of the place?

R. KASHIWAGI: And there were several. One is still in operation right now, by the Airport. That drive-in is still in business.

C. UMEDA: Really, which one?

L. KASHIWAGI: It's the, it's the...

R. KASHIWAGI: Next to the Lei Wah Restaurant. Where the South Bowl is. Near there. Okay, well any how we'd go there and I would roll down the window half-way and the car hop would put a tray on the window there and we'd place our order, French fry, hamburger and ah, at that time I believe it was Coke, I believe. And so it was almost a ritual, go out to a movie or whatever and then wind up at the drive-in.

C. UMEDA: So how long did you ..., Bob wasn't sure the dates, but how long did you court, so to speak, or date before you were married?

L. KASHIWAGI: Humm, let's see now. We must have courted about...

R. KASHIWAGI: Six months...

L. KASHIWAGI: Four months...

R. KASHIWAGI: Four months?

L. KASHIWAGI: Four months, four to six months.

L. KASHIWAGI: And then we were engaged for about three months.

R. KASHIWAGI: It was that long. I didn't remember.

C. UMEDA: Okay, so about a total of seven months before you were married.

Since, since I didn't say it for the record, I'm Lillian's sister so I'm sister-in-law to Bob. So I have some information as well but one of the things that I do know is that Lillian was the first of the seven children to be married. She is not the first born, the first born is Grace [Asoo Kanai]. And you were the third born. So what was, did anything, or when you and or or..... By the way, Bob, did you go to my father to ask for her hand? How did that happen?

R. KASHIWAGI: This is kind of a...

C. UMEDA: ... Oh, before we go there, tell me, how did you propose to Lillian?

L. KASHIWAGI: ... I remember...

R. KASHIWAGI: Well, I can't [Laughter]

C. UMEDA: Okay, Lillian.

L. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, he proposed to me when we went to the dance hall at Memorial Auditorium. And during the break we, he took out a ring and he presented it to me. And I knew, you know, he wanted me to marry him.

C. UMEDA: Do you remember anything he said particularly?

L. KASHIWAGI: Noooo. I can't remember. But the only thing that I remember is that I thought it was a huge diamond ring until I got home and then...

R. KASHIWAGI: [Laughter] When you put [Laughter] a magnifying glass on it wasn't so big. [Laughter]

L. KASHIWAGI: It was a really small diamond. [Laughter] I was kinda disappointed. [Laughter]

R. KASHIWAGA: You don't remember that I wasn't very healthy at that time. [Laughter]

L. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, and then he had no help from his parents. Everything he was on his own. So, I, I should have known it was going, it wasn't, but it looked so huge under the dim light at the dance hall, you know. It was...

C. UMEDA: So when did you ask my father or Lillian's father or when did you tell the parents?

R. KASHIWAGI: You know, I think, as I do recall, in those days you had to have the go-between.

R. KASHIWAGI: And so, at at that point, we couldn't approach the parents at all at that point. We need to have a go-between make the first approach. And so my half-sister, Miwako's husband, acted as a go-between for myself and then Mrs. Nishio and Mr. Nishio acted as a go-between for Lillian.

L. KASHIWAGI: Uh hum.

R. KASHIWAGI: And so, with those two persons they approached Lil's father, parents....

L. KASHIWAGI: It was formal type though, my folks knew already that as I already had the ring.

C. UMEDA: I see.

L. KASHIWAGI: So he never really pro., asked for my hand to dad.

C. UMEDA: I see.

L. KASHIWAGI: Like the typical, you know. You need to have a go-between so we asked Mrs. Nishio and her husband.

C. UMEDA: Was there anything said, or did you get a feeling that it was not the correct order of things for you to get married first, versus Grace?

L. KASHIWAGI: I thought of that but I didn't, I don't think that Grace was going with anybody, was she, or was she?

R. KASHIWAGI: No, she was not going with anyone at that time.

L. KASHIWAGI: I don't think so, I can't remember.

C. UMEDA: Was that a problem or anything?

L. KASHIWAGI: I didn't think about it.

R. KASHIWAGI: Wasn't Rose going with somebody before Grace?

L. KASHIWAGI: No, she was still going to college.

R. KASHIWAGI: No, I thought that Rose went first, I'm not sure.

L. KASHIWAGI: No, no, no. I thought, gee, I wish Grace and Mildred would get married but if I wait for them I'll be an old lady, old maid.

[Laughter] To each his own. So...

C. UMEDA: ... Tell me a little bit about how you planned your wedding and who was included, and then the wedding?

L. KASHIWAGI: Uhhh, yeah, Flora Murata made my wedding gown and I asked Rose to be my bridesmaid. And so I just had one bridesmaid. Bob and I more or less planned it all on our own because he had to fork out all the expense and I didn't have any money. And we didn't want to ask our parents, so we decided that whatever money we received for the wedding we'll pay for the wedding.

C. UMEDA: I see, I see.

L. KASHIWAGI: So I never really got any money.

C. UMEDA: So Bob, who was your bestman?

R. KASHIWAGI: Well, of course, I had as my stand-in my younger brother, Tom. But then I needed to have a best friend. Well, naturally, Mino Harada, who I met in Camp and was very close to. I asked him to be my bestman. And so with Tom, and Mino Harada being the bestman, why that composed our [Chuckle] bridal group. [Laughter] Wedding group.

C. UMEDA: So you were married on November 2, 19....?

L. KASHIWAGI: Uhmm hum, '47.

C. UMEDA: And what was at what church?

L. KASHIWAGI: Parkview Presbyterian Church.

R. KASHIWAGI: Incidentally, Reverend ...

L. KASHIWAGI: Nakamura.

R. KASHIWAGI: Nakamura had already accepted a transfer to Salinas, I believe. He had already left Parkview Church and here we wanted to use Parkview Church. But at one of the Board meeting, Reverend assured me that he would still be available to complete the wedding ceremony at Parkview Church. And so then I felt relieved that the we had the minister there ready to, you know, follow through.

C. UMEDA: So he conducted your wedding, I see. And then, do, what kind of reception or did you have a reception?

L. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, we had a reception at Hong Kong.

C. UMEDA: That's what I thought.

L. KASHIWAGI: It wasn't a big reception because in those day's, people you know, they didn't have a big wedding, you know.

R. KASHIWAGI: 1947 people were not back together yet and everything was very unstable and we were lucky to even have a place to have our reception, let alone, a place to live. We had a problem trying to locate living quarters.

C. UMEDA: So where did you, where was your first apartment?

R. KASHIWAGI: Well now the first room [Lillian chuckling] was it, was it on Q Street,
608 Q Street?

L. KASHIWAGI: Yeah.

R. KASHIWAGI: Which was just a one-room apartment with a kitchenette and using a
communal bathroom, plus a kitchenette with an oven being used as
the heater.

L. KASHIWAGI: Oh, uh hum.

R. KASHIWAGI: That was all.

L. KASHIWAGI: Uh hum.

R. KASHIWAGI: And it was very primitive. But in, in those days, we were considered
lucky and very fortunate to have even that.

L. KASHIWAGI: It was one dollar a day.

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah.

C. UMEDA: One dollar a...

L. KASHIWAGI: A day, it cost us.

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, yeah, but then the, the rooms were very scarce and you had to
have connection to get a place.

C. UMEDA: Now, Lillian, you were working at that time?

L. KASHIWAGI: Uh hum. Employment Department.

C. UMEDA: I see, I see. The State of California?

L. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, uh hum.

R. KASHIWAGI: There's another rather humorous situation at that point. On our
wedding date, I was just being transferred to the Division of

R. KASHIWAGI: Highways from US Engineers. I had no vacation time, no leave and so all they could do was dock my pay for taking a few days to go off for a honeymoon. And so, my pay of less than a hundred dollars a day, and then they removed about three days of my pay. And so that was a very skimpy month on my paycheck.

L. KASHIWAGI: Uh humm.

C. UMEDA: Now, how much were you making a day?

R. KASHIWAGI: This was, I mean a month.

C. UMEDA: Okay, that's what I thought. A hundred dollars for the month.

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, for a month.

C. UMEDA: Not a day. Well okay.

L. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, you were making more because I was making \$140.

R. KASHIWAGI: No, I don't know that ...you were making more..

L. KASHIWAGI: I know, that's right, I was started out with \$80 a month, Junior Clerk.

R. KASHIWAGI: It was just about that it was very.... [Laughter]

L. KASHIWAGI: It wasn't much, huh?

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah.

C. UMEDA: So what did you do on your honey, where did you go and what did you do on your honeymoon?

R. KASHIWAGI: We went to Salinas, Carmel area, huh?

L. KASHIWAGI: Uh hum..Uh. hum.

R. KASHIWAGI: And we only had about three days because I had no leave time.

L. KASHIWAGI: We went to the beach.

C. UMEDA: Okay, well what about setting up your household? You said housing was scarce, what about all the things?

L. KASHIWAGI: We just had a bed, a bed.

R. KASHIWAGI: You bought all those things.

L. KASHIWAGI: A couch, a love seat. I just bought the love seat because the love seat was the only thing that will fit in that one bedroom. And then we had one lamp.

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah.

L. KASHIWAGI: That was it.

R. KASHIWAGI: Pots and pans, I think, I wonder if we borrowed that from someone?

L. KASHIWAGI: No I think we received it as a wedding gift...

R. KASHIWAGI: No, what we received, well....

L. KASHIWAGI: And when we first got married we had that little old icebox.

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, oh yes.

L. KASHIWAGI: You had to get the ice, remember?

R. KASHIWAGI: I recall, every day, every once a week, I had to go down to the, the, Crystal Ice and then pick up a 25 lbs. block of ice and had to put it on the bumper of my car and bring it home. And then I also had to drain the ice water, melted ice water every day, huh?

L. KASHIWAGI: Humm.

R. KASHIWAGI: Otherwise we would have had a mess in the room.

C. UMEDA: Oh, you just said something, you had a car then, what kind of car?

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, this is a 1941 Dodge.

C. UMEDA: Oh, Oh.

L. KASHIWAGI: That's the one that you...

R. KASHIWAGI: That we had before the war.

C. UMEDA: I see.

R. KASHIWAGI: And was stored in storage and then I came back and picked it up.

C. UMEDA: I see, very good.

R. KASHIWAGI: And then, about a year or so later, a very fortunate incident happened where we were given some information that a flat was opened for us on 620 O Street, wasn't it? Oh, no, ...

L. KASHIWAGI: V Street, V Street, V

R. KASHIWAGI: Q, Q, O and P, 620 O, no, it was 608 Q, I think.

L. KASHIWAGI: P, I think our first house was on Q Street. That little one room apartment.

R. KASHIWAGI: Yes.

L. KASHIWAGI: And then that home opened up on P.

R. KASHIWAGI: I thought it was O Street?

L. KASHIWAGI: Oh, O...

R. KASHIWAGI: O Street...

L. KASHIWAGI: Oh maybe I'm wrong.

R. KASHIWAGI: And that was one flat. And that gave us how many, three, one, two, about three rooms.

L. KASHIWAGI: Ummm, humm.

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, three and with our own bath. Although the toilet was outside, but it stills, you know, better than communal.

L. KASHIWAGI: Ummm, humm.

C. UMEDA: Okay, at what point was your first or first of three children born?

R. KASHIWAGI: I think I have the dates of the ...

L. KASHIWAGI: June 20th.

R. KASHIWAGI: The very first was Gordon, and born June 20, 1950. And Cathy...

C. UMEDA: ... Where were you living at that time?

R. KASHIWAGI: 620, no, 608 Q Street.

L. KASHIWAGI: No, not Q Street, O Street.

R. KASHIWAGI: O Street.

C. UMEDA: Okay.

R. KASHIWAGI: Okay, and then Cathy was born in the same place, she was born January 31, 1953. But then about that time we moved to Sacramento Boulevard in Oak Park. And Kerry was born May 10, 1958. Yeah.

L. KASHIWAGI: Ummm, humm.

C. UMEDA: So when did you move from Sacramento Boulevard to where you are now, do you remember?

R. KASHIWAGI: Twenty-five years...

L. KASHIWAGI: No, more than 30, oh thirty...

C. UMEDA: More than that because we've been in our house twenty, almost 28 years.

L. KASHIWAGI: Oh yes, because Gordon, Kerry was about the 4th grade I think.

R. KASHIWAGI: That's right, he was already going to school.

L. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, it must been about thirty, over 32 years, I would say. About 33 year's ago. I'm glad we moved here.

C. UMEDA: Because Gordon graduated from Kennedy High School.

R. KASHIWAGI: That's right, he was in the very first graduating class.

C. UMEDA: Right.

L. KASHIWAGI: He went on to City College. I remember when Stanford Junior High School burned down.

R. KASHIWAGI: Oh, yes, while we were there, the Stanford Junior High School was set on fire and burned.

L. KASHIWAGI: He went to Sacramento Hi [High School].

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah.

C. UMEDA: Oh, Gordon started Sacramento Hi?

L. KASHIWAGI: Then McClatchy [High School], and then he went to [John F.] Kennedy [Senior High School], when Kennedy was built.

C. UMEDA: Oh, okay.

R. KASHIWAGI: And then all the rest of the children completed the Kennedy Hi.

L. KASHIWAGI: Uhhh, hummm.

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah.

C. UMEDA: Are there any other particular incidents and things in your shared life?
I know that you just recently, last year had your 50th wedding anniversary.

R. KASHIWAGI: Well, I think the most pleasant and most important part is our, grand children. And we have four grand children now. Let me see, Jennifer, now is a...

L. KASHIWAGI: Eleven.

R. KASHIWAGI: Eleven years old, we're proud of her.

C. UMEDA: And she's the daughter of?

R. KASHIWAGI: Of that, that, Cathy. And then there's the next in line would be Tina, that would be Gordon's oldest child, and she is now four years old. Then came the two, about the same age, so it would be Alan, older?

L. KASHIWAGI: Uhhh, humm. He's three.

R. KASHIWAGI: He'd be three and then Leah, who's adopted by Cathy, is now going to be three. She hasn't received the third birthday yet.

L. KASHIWAGI: But I think one of the most happiest, I mean one, I think, I think, my recollection when, been the happiest time in my life is when Gordon got married. [Laughter]

C. UMEDA: Oh.

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, oh yeah.

L. KASHIWAGI: I think next to our marriage, I think his being married, because I worried so much about him.

R. KASHIWAGI: I think he could have been a little bit pampered more than the others.

L. KASHIWAGI: Uhhh, humm.

R. KASHIWAGI: But see, after Gordon why it's so what so we didn't have no more worry.

C. UMEDA: Oh.

R. KASHIWAGI: But the first one was a bit of a worry. [Laughter]

C. UMEDA: So in chronological order, the first one who was married in your family, your children, was Cathy.

L. KASHIWAGI: Ummm, humm. Cathy.

C. UMEDA: Okay, do you remember what year that was?

R. KASHIWAGI: It's getting back, you ([inaudible])

L. KASHIWAGI: ([inaudible])

C. UMEDA: Okay, but, all right. If you would, what I want you to do is to enter in who your children married and then their children?

L. KASHIWAGI: Ummm, humm. Ummm, humm.

C. UMEDA: So Cathy married

L. KASHIWAGI: Terry Nishizaki

C. UMEDA: And they have...

L. KASHIWAGI: Two children and then Kerry married SueAnn Yenokida and they have two dogs. [Laughter] And then finally, Gordon got married to Chi...

C. UMEDA: Hoang.

L. KASHIWAGI: Hoang.

C. UMEDA: Hoang, I think it's H O A N G.

L. KASHIWAGI: Ummm, humm, and they have two children, a girl and a boy.

C. UMEDA: Well things are, just couldn't be better.

L. KASHIWAGI: Yes I feel that our lives have been really been blessed. I really feel that.

R. KASHIWAGI: That's right because we couldn't ask for any more then what we are blessed with and for us to make the best of what we have now.

C. UMEDA: Well, I know this may be difficult but one of the things all of us shared with you [Lillian] and was a big challenge was that almost a year ago you had some brain strokes. And it was a very difficult time, not only for Bob and your children, but for the rest of the family. But to have seen what you had gone through and then to be able to celebrate your 50th anniversary was just phenomenal.

R. KASHIWAGI: We're really very amazed of Lillian's recovery. Less than a year's time, after being in a coma for seven days, and in intensive care for seven days, and then to be able to almost conduct a normal life. Why that's a blessed event for us.

C. UMEDA: It's pretty remarkable. You did very good, you startled us, scared us, and then you sort of overcame it.

R. KASHIWAGI: But then, let's see, the personal attitude of Lillian, getting her into that recovery situation, because she's constantly exercising, doing things. She's very conscientious about trying to improve herself. And so, early in the morning or whenever, she's ([inaudible]) exercising her hand, if she's a little weak on her hand, why she's asked different people for aide to help her with her hand exercise. Especially cutting materials.

L. KASHIWAGI: Patty Ann has been a big help, because she's a therapist, huh. Yeah, she's really helping.

R. KASHIWAGI: She has a little trouble in walking and therapy for her hands. I imagine you would call that occupational type of therapy.

L. KASHIWAGI: Ummm, humm. Yeah.

R. KASHIWAGI: Her speech therapy, which is just coming along and it's almost, you know, getting back to normal. Very little problem in speech. And swallowing, now except for a bit of coughing, her swallowing is fine. She needs to be a little bit careful so she doesn't eat too fast. And other than that she's doing, coming along fine. And so a new muscle is taking over.

C. UMEDA: Very good, training and finding new pathways. Why I know that I could probably add to this too because as sort-of an outsider peering in, one of the things that always stroke me about your relationship, your marriage, was the fact that Bob was truly far beyond most males of his generation. He's Nisei, second generation, one of the things that, we use to see that were, even to this day, even the nieces and nephews will comment is the fact that, one, Bob has always been very actively involved in the child care of his children, cooking. He's the first one out there helping to cook, clean. I mean, one of the things that we use to marvel at is that in other family events where family would get together, all the sisters and so forth, while the other sisters were running around gathering up her children, Lillian would be

C. UMEDA: sitting there on the sofa [Laughter]. And Bob would be running around hooking up the children, getting the baggage ready [Laughter]. No one else. We use to say, "Boy, do you have it made." [Laughter] And she was totally oblivious. Bob had done it so long that it was just a matter of, "Well, this is just the way it's done."

L. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, it is, because I remember first thing, first time when Kinuko [Kashiwagi] came to America and she visited us, that's the first thing she noticed. And she told me that, she never saw such a person [Laughter], that Lillian would just sit back and visit while Bob is doing everything else. And I didn't even think about it until Mildred did mention that too. When we went on vacation with her one year. And "Here Lillian was watching the waves and all and here Bob was just wiping the kids and keeping them dry [Laughter] so they wouldn't catch cold." I remember that and I didn't think nothing of it. [Laughter]

C. UMEDA: You got her too well conditioned Bob. [Laughter]

L. KASHIWAGI: I don't think I ever cut the kids fingernails and toenails, he did it. That was his thing. [Laughter]

C. UMEDA: Well it was remarkable because it was, again, there are very many father who still, to this day, don't do as much as Bob did. But without being asked, it just seemed like that was the thing he did. And it was just remarkable to just sort of see him do all these things and hopefully you appreciated it.

L. KASHIWAGI: Oh, yeah, I do, I do. Because...

R. KASHIWAGI: Possibly, maybe what more or less, brought this situation over is because my childhood was very, very unpleasant and a very unhappy childhood, when growing up. And so, my mother being abused quite a bit, that I would help her as much as I can. And I then realized the household chore is something that I could help with. And so that is now remained with me ever since my growing up in my younger days. And the were the girls in the family, one being even older, what they, I don't think they did as much as I did to help the family.

L. KASHIWAGI: That's cause they went away to college.

R. KASHIWAGI: Well, but even before they were able to do those things, if they were home, but they, they really didn't do that much. But they wanted to be away from home more than anything else. It was a very unhappy childhood for most of us.

And then also, I didn't mention anything about my work experience. But, after I was hired by Cal Trans, at that time it was Division of Highways, why I've served 32 years of service with them, and retired and now. I'm still very active and capable of doing, you know, things that not necessarily considered an invalid. So I would like to get involved with other things and one of the things is church work is one of my responsibility. Whatever they want to do at church, I do. And then, Boys Scout, I've been with them for possibly, ever since Gordon's first entry into Cub Scouting. And then the boys

R. KASHIWAGI: left the Boys Scouting and I stayed in. And so now I'm going on my 25th years of serving as Advancement Chairman for the Boys Scouts. And

C. UMEDA: ... Now which troop is that?

R. KASHIWAGI: And then, I was a Scoutmaster for Troop 16 in Oak Park. But then when I moved to the South Land Park area, then I became involved with Troop 250, VFW 8985 sponsored unit. And I'm serving possibly close to 25 years as Advancement Chairman. And I'm still not through, I'm still continuing. [Chuckle]

C. UMEDA: Good.

R. KASHIWAGI: I've got three Eagle Scouts all lined up for court of honor. So we're going good. And then for other things like golfing, I still maintain my contact with my little golf group. I have 20 players that I arrange as a handicapper. And continuing on.

C. UMEDA: You touched on a little bit about church work now. Ever since you became affiliated with Parkview Presbyterian Church after you returned from service, you've sort of stayed with Parkview?

R. KASHIWAGI: That's right.

C. UMEDA: Right?

R. KASHIWAGI: Prior to the war, I did attend Christian Churches, just more or less, after school activity. But other than that I had no formal involvement with church and my folks being Buddhist, not exactly a die-hard Buddhist [Coughing] but still practicing Buddhist. And I had no

R. KASHIWAGI: means of getting involved in with the Buddhist type of service. And so I remained a Christian. And I've been baptized now and serving as officer. Ever since 1947 I served as one officer or another. Until recently. Now it would be in a committee or chore assignment. Other than that, I, I, take no real active board responsibility.

C. UMEDA: Now, today, 1998, you're, how old are you now, Bob?

R. KASHIWAGI: I'm 79 years.

C. UMEDA: Seventy-nine, and I can tell you, because you're brother-in-law, Stan Umeda, my husband, and many other church members have been working and they've just about completed the fence at the church. But I for one know that one day when I wandered over there I found you helping to dig trenches.

R. KASHIWAGI: Dig holes. [Laughter]

C. UMEDA: So at 79, yes, you still are very vigorous. I see you and Lillian walking in the morning. You play golf. You're active, both of you, baby-sit and child care for your grand children. That's a pretty full, remarkable life. Very full. All right, I think that's a real credit [Cough]. I mean, you don't look 79, I'm, you really take good care of yourself and your health is very good. How...

R. KASHIWAGI: Am, say that I'm fortunate that the good Lord watches over me and...

- C. UMEDA: Okay, if I can Bob, there was couple loose ends that were in the earlier part of your, family history I wanted to just be sure to plug in so we have a complete picture. You told us about your siblings but you also mentioned step...
- R. KASHIWAGI: Half, I would, would you call that half or step?
- C. UMEDA: Oh, oh, half?
- R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, they're half.
- C. UMEDA: Oh, you're right. You're right. It is half.
- R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, because my father's the same but the mother's were different.
- C. UMEDA: That's right, so your half-siblings?
- R. KASHIWAGI: Well, as far as I could remember, early in the interview I mentioned something about my, what they call my mother, birth mother, was not married until about 19, maybe 16th. So prior to that, my father was married to another person who had three children and those three children, the mother passed away. [Coughing] I believe it was during the flu epidemic, or something, the father was unable to raise them so they returned the three children to Japan, to be raised by their grandparents. And Japan, I imagine whatever you want to call it, their rules and regulations is that at age 17, they're going to lose their dual citizenship if they don't commit themselves one way or other. As long as you're born at that time you received your Japanese citizenship and American citizenship.

R. KASHIWAGI: But then, at age 17, they had to make up their mind. If they are going to retain their Japanese citizenship, they had to stay in Japan and become conscripted. But if they didn't want to, they could drop their Japanese citizenship and come to the United States and become an American citizen. And so they came at age 17, they came back to United States to maintain their American citizenship. And so they were all returned to United States, while I believe during, this was prior to 1934, so it's was rather early grammar school age.

And so they all enrolled in grammar school, although they were way past grammar school age. But they'll not being able to speak English, they had to start low enough but their math and all others were way above because they were going to school in Japan. But then after couple years of going to grammar school then they became proficient in English that they all went to, both, all three of them went to San Francisco to continued higher education and go to work.

C. UMEDA: So you never lived with that set of siblings?

R. KASHIWAGI: No, they lived with us together.

C. UMEDA: Oh, you did?

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, for awhile. But it's just a matter of several, oh maybe, several years.

C. UMEDA: I see.

R. KASHIWAGI: Not too long.

C. UMEDA: I see, I see. I didn't remember adding when your father dies?

R. KASHIWAGI: Let me see, 1950. Because Gordon was born about the time my father died.

C. UMEDA: Oh, I see, I see. And your mother died some years later, as I recall.

L. KASHIWAGI: Prior, no later.

R. KASHIWAGI: Later.

L. KASHIWAGI: That's right, that's right. Later.

R. KASHIWAGI: Maybe about four or five years later.

L. KASHIWAGI: Oh, much more.

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, maybe more. I'd have to look it up.

C. UMEDA: Okay, because I recall, Gordon, I mean Kerry, you taking him to the nursing home.

L. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, he, I remember when mama died, he didn't want to go look at her in the coffin. I remember he didn't want to.

R. KASHIWAGI: Well then it would have had to be before '58, then. Because Kerry was born in 1958.

L. KASHIWAGI: It was after '58.

C. UMEDA: It was after Kerry.

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, after Kerry.

C. UMEDA: Oh, okay. All right. Any other future, any other wrap up things? We covered a lot of territory Bob.

R. KASHIWAGI: Well, it's difficult to remember things. It's only possibility, the only reason why I was able to jot down some of these things because I had to research a little bit for my younger brother's 50th anniversary.

R. KASHIWAGI: And I had to try to think back and research a little bit. That, and our early, you would call it childhood.

L. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, but then when you, when you go around speaking, you have to remember, pick up a lot of things.

R. KASHIWAGI: Speaking to ...

L. KASHIWAGI: Students.

R. KASHIWAGI: Oh, well, that's, that's another thing. [VFW "Day of Remembrance" Activities. President Clinton once commented that the greatest contributor to the human sufferings and tragedies of the world is the hatred of one person of another. For this reason the objective of the VFW's "Day of Remembrance" Team of the Nisei Post 8985, we present programs to various organizations at their invitation to speak to them. We stress tolerance of others. Our emphasis is on the Constitution of the United States with its "Bill of Rights". We are all innocent until proven guilty in a Court of Law and we all have the right of due process. I have participated as a member of this Team for many years and have spoken to dozens of schools and civic organizations. It is my purpose to advise the younger students, who are still under voting age, that the Constitution of the United States, with those beautifully worded "Bill of Rights" is still only a piece of paper resting in the Archives. Those in authority can and have circumvented or even ignored those rights. Greed, prejudice, hysteria, political expediency and other reasons can influence those in

R. KASHIWAGI: authority to act unfairly. Therefore, it is the voting public who can ensure the fair treatment for all regardless of their race, religious belief, and social standing or other reasons. We must all live together and treat each other as brothers and sisters.]*

I'm also a member of the VFW team that goes around talking to different schools and organizations, primarily around the area of Day of Remembrance, not necessarily that, because I'm already going to be going next week to Center High School in Antelope. We're going to spend all day there talking to six, seven classes. And we'll talk about civil rights and constitution and the attitude of tolerance to other, you know, other culture, and things like that. And then to asking these students to remain in school and all that. And so we take turn and go to various schools when we, we're invited, including Davis. We were suppose to go to Davis last, this week. But unfortunately there was another program so we were postponed to a later date.

C. UMEDA: Now this is all really, comes out of relating and talking about the internment years and service in the military.

R. KASHIWAGI: This, I think is more or less, this is more or less involved in this reparation, where so much money was given to the educational part. And we're following up on the educational part.

* Robert Kashiwagi added the proceeding bracketed material during his review of the draft transcript.

C. UMEDA: Okay, good. Under the constitutional guarantees and...

R. KASHIWAGI: ... That's right, and so, we are going around to various schools, where they invite us to talk about internment and other things that would interest them, yes.

C. UMEDA: Very good. Bob, you were saying that you go to a number of schools and as part of this grant to talk about constitutional guarantees and internment. What kind of questions do you get asked by these children?

R. KASHIWAGI: Because we speak to various age group, starting as low as, even before sixth grade, and then to adult. [Clearing throat] Like night school, that have adults, like Vietnam veterans, and even older. The range is so inclusive that their interest is different. And [Clearing throat] if it's a school, sixth grade level, their more or less interested in details of camp life and some of the things that happened in that period. But then we get into the older, well, I've spoken to like the US Engineers and the Department of Interiors, and ROTC at the State College [California State University, Sacramento] they come up with questions regarding your personal attitude, your personal feeling. They ask how did you feel and what is your or attitude now. Are you still bitter and things like that. And those are the types of question that they ask. Now, other questions pertaining to the details as to what happened in those period or days, why it's its in, its located in

R. KASHIWAGI: literatures and so it is a matter, it's very factual. It's, its, take it out of the literatures, the booklets. Yeah.

C. UMEDA: This might be a sensitive question but how much, if any, or how much have you discussed internment and your war experience with your children?

R. KASHIWAGI: With the children, they over hear us, say, we never discuss anything directly as to internment. Other than conversation, camp life and things like that. But never a question and answer dialogue between two person type of questions. They, they have, they don't show any interest as far as we are concerned. They listen to some of the things we talk about as I talk to other older people or some visitors, but they never ask us any personal questions.

C. UMEDA: You were not in camp as long as Lillian.

R. KASHIWAGI: That's right, but one year in bed.

C. UMEDA: Right, right. I.... So you were sort of, maybe, isolated by some of the goings on?

R. KASHIWAGI: No, I don't say I'm, I was isolated because I was able to get up and move around.

C. UMEDA: Oh you were. Okay. So...cause you did relate some of those experiences.

R. KASHIWAGI: Oh yes, I identified some of the problems that they had there and plumbing problems. And I'd worked prior to everybody moving in to Camp, I use to help Mino, my friend, drive tractor and he would let

R. KASHIWAGI: me drive tractor, you know. Well maybe in the afternoon, two or three hours, I'd just go over there and enjoy it.

L. KASHIWAGI: Well you know one thing you didn't mention it but when he was inducted into the service he had, he weighed only how many pounds?

R. KASHIWAGI: Well, you know when one is in bed for a hundred, for one year, you're not in physical shape to go through basic training. And basic training, you need to go right now. They don't give you time to catch up, build your strength. And so I asked for one-month delay in route and of course, I was 105 lbs. going into hospital and then I came out one-year later 135 lbs. As I laid in bed for one year. And that was a rather a very difficult time for me as I went through basic training. And I remember every afternoon after we finished basic training out in the field; we're five miles from Camp, from our cabin. And so, we were required to force march all the way into Camp for five miles. And the target was to come in at 45 minutes with the pack. So that's why I would come in and I would be so exhausted and out that I would lay down on my bunk there and I wasn't not prepared to eat. And so, after while with a little rest, and I. Naturally I couldn't go to the kitchen to get anything to eat, so then I would go to the USO and oh, and get some junk food, like potato chips and candy bars. And I would use that as my supper because I was not in condition to eat during the, you know, supertime.

C. UMEDA: Regular....uhmm.

R. KASHIWAGI: But we, that was towards the end of the training period, see.

L. KASHIWAGI: Well I'm surprised that you, you pulled through.

R. KASHIWAGI: Well, I'm surprised that I didn't come down with something.

L. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, I'm surprised. Really surprised.

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, I could have you know, my resistance was bad, low. Many a times I was wet, day and night for maybe two weeks, you know. And you know go to sleep with your wet clothes and, you know, that is not good for, you know, your body's health. But it's a wonder I didn't get gangrene or some other ailments. But, I fortunately came through. But then one thing for sure, I didn't do like the other boys did. They go out and have a good time after Camp, after training, where I stayed near my bed and kind of built up my strength. Yeah. Rested.

C. UMEDA: The other thing, I was just checking, I, one of the things I remember reading in your documents, you didn't include the medals that you received for what you did in combat.

R. KASHIWAGI: Well, like I mentioned in the prior part of my interview here. There, I said, there are many who has earned and deserved but never recognized and those of, the fortunate one, at the right time at the right place and right people; they got their medal. And then those who went through even more got no recognition because they were not there to write ([inaudible]) something happened. Now I served as a First Scout, which naturally made me Private First Class.

R. KASHIWAGI: He's the first man into the front line. Well, after that I became Assistant Squad Leader that's a Sargent's rating. But they didn't give me my rating so I didn't get that pay. I remained Private First Class because my First Sargent was killed and there's nobody to write up my advancement. And so naturally I never got my, what they call, advancement to get my extra pay that I was already suppose to be earning.

And then as far as medal were concerned, we, 442nd Japanese group, not what they call an individual type of hero, we did it as a group. And so some other outfit there heroes involved where they gave them a high, like a Silver Stars and Distinguished Silver Cross, but we in 442, we don't try to the, step out like those kind of people because we all go together. We trusted each other. Whereas the other group, one or two might step out the rest would hide or stay back. They didn't support whatever was happening up front. But then in our group, our heritage doesn't tell us, tell us that we need be there and put our effort with the rest. And so we just go ahead. And so naturally, as a group, you're not going to get any medal.

C. UMEDA: Uhmm, humm.

R. KASHIWAGI: You did it.

C. UMEDA: But I do know you got a, you earned a Purple Heart.

R. KASHIWAGI: Well I have, I had three wounds and I only got two Purple Hearts with a cluster for three wounds. And then I even had, where people are now getting, you know, what they call Federal aid, what do you call it, for hearing loss. I've lost my hearing but I'm not getting anything because I didn't put in for it. See. Although I could attribute that to being shot at, you know. Yeah.

C. UMEDA: Did you not get a Bronze Medal?

R. KASHIWAGI: There's a Bronze Medal but then that's considered a basic, you know, that's, that's. Rather than a Bronze Medal, the combat infantry battle badge is more desirable medal, and which I got immediately. That's the first, well the first week in combat, I already got my combat infantry badge. And so...

C. UMEDA: And that represents what?

R. KASHIWAGI: Well, that's under fire and combat of exemplary conduct under fire. So, yeah, and so, and then naturally in order to get advancement in the military you got to be there at the right time and the right people has to be there because somebody has to write...

[End, Tape 2, Side A]

[Begin, Tape 2, Side B]

C. UMEDA: This is Tape 2, Side B. Okay, continuing.

R. KASHIWAGI: You know, as far as advancement and recognition in the army, there is a person assigned to each Company that picks up all the necessary credentials or particulars and then writes up the certificate of commendation or whatever advancement for the whole Company. But if you're like the First Scout, and he's in the front end and then others are nowhere near by, and whatever you do, you expose yourself to danger and all that, nobody going to write up, you can't write it up for yourself. And so nobody there is going to write it for you.

And then when it comes to advancement, the Captain decides, we need, we have a position open as a 2nd or 3rd or maybe a Sargent or whatever, "Okay, we got to get somebody's name in." And so the first thing that, the some body tripping, he's tripping on all the time or even a bad boy, you know. Because he's known by the Captain, he says, "Let's recommend him. Okay." And then they write it up. But the rest of us who, way up front and don't bother anybody, why we'll never get recognized, see. In fact I served through all my French campaign as an Assistant Squad Leader and I got no recognition for it. I'm not talking about advancement, it the money that I didn't get.

R. KASHIWAGI: Because a Private First Class and a Sargent is quite a bit of difference in money, see.

C. UMEDA: I see.

R. KASHIWAGI: But I didn't get anything because when I was discharged I got discharged as a Private First Class. But they finally decided to give me Tech Five, which is a Corporal. With that, I, you know, gained a little bit more money. But still not enough to go home with.

And then there's one more incident that I need to comment on. And that is the friend that I made in England while I was still, stationed, or you know, entered in the hospital there in Litchfield, England. [Clearing throat sound] Well, one day, I received a three-day pass to go into town and just kill the time of the day. And while I was near a little bridge, there's a man came up to me and he was lookin' at me and sees I'm Oriental and he came up to me and he says, "Are you Oriental?" And I says, "Yes, I'm Japanese.." And he says, "Oh, yeah." You know that's kind of queer to see Japanese in an American Army. But anyhow we started to talk and he says, "You know, I'd like you to come to my home and meet the family." And so, "Fine." He says, "Do you have the time?" And I say, "Yes." And so the fellow's name was Cyril Hadley. He brought me home. I had a three-day pass, and I was going to stay at the Red Cross Hostel in town. But, he knew that I didn't have a hotel, you know, room. And so he say, "I want you to stay with us", you know, "overnight,

R. KASHIWAGI: until your pass is", you know, "over." And so, he brought me home and introduced me to his wife and there was a little child there. And that child incidentally was just adopted and so I stayed. And now Mrs. Hadley, you know there were restrictions over there on ration and so she went around her neighborhood and borrowed ration stamps so she could buy a little bit of food so they could feed me. And so with that we became very, very friendly. And every time I got a three-day pass, why I would go there and stay there as long as my pass was open. And then, I would, you know, go around the neighborhood. He had a tandem bicycle, so we'd go with the tandem bicycle and run all over the area and he's telling me about the history of England and everything else. And then eventually after so many weeks, why I was discharged from the hospital and I was sent to France.

And so the first chance I got after I was in France I came back to England on the ferry and immediately went to their place and stayed over for three days. And then from there I went back to France again then at that time, I was ready to go home and so I came home.

And that friendship continued even as of today. Because I just received a letter last week. And Mrs. Hadley now is well along. She's 90 years old, I think. And she still is very active in, in political council work. But she says, "I can not travel anymore, but would like to continue corresponding." And so we are still maintaining very

R. KASHIWAGI: close tie. When they came to the United States, they stayed at our home. And I took them around points of interest, like Yosemite and Carmel and Bay Bridges and all that. And then when we went to England for a visit, why naturally, why we don't need to travel so much, we just stayed at their home and enjoyed the rest of the family including their sisters and their children. He has one son now and so met their so-called grandchildren. And their sister. At one time in the early part, why the father was still alive and he was 100 years old I think, getting close to it? And then we met them all. We had one great big family dinner and enjoyed each other's company and then we would go to, like a, Friday night is what they call a "Make Whoopee" night and so we would go to the pub. Which is a bar. [Chuckle] When we would get our mild and bitter. And mild and bitter, you see mild is kind of a light colored beer and bitter is dark beer, of beer. Mild and bitter. And we go there and have a wonderful time, they'd sing songs and joke and they talk, visit. And so, that's was the extent of their having their entertainment, going to the pub, public bar. And then after her husband, Cyril passed away, why then; Milly did come once, huh? And stayed with us for a week or so. [Clear throat] And then after that why, she no longer could travel any more. She couldn't, didn't care to travel too much. So now, all we do is correspond by letter.

C. UMEDA: That's wonderful. Wonderful.

R. KASHIWAGI: But then we also have friends in France, who authored "Yankee Samurai in Bruyeres", Pierre Moulin, and he writes to us and when he comes to the United States, naturally I try to go meet him. And then when we went to France, why yes, we visit with them. And he joined us and so we still have some European contact still very active.

C. UMEDA: Fine. It's interesting that something that was a very difficult time in your life, serving in the military. But out of that you've made lasting friendships.

R. KASHIWAGI: That's right.

C. UMEDA: And it reminds me also that to this day you're very active with the Company that you served in, is that Company K?

R. KASHIWAGI: Company K, yes.

C. UMEDA: Do you want to elaborate a little bit about that?

R. KASHIWAGI: Well, Company K is in the Third Platoon of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. And, as far as the activity, I have to say this that they had planned, probably one of the last reunions in Oahu, Hawaii. And I applied for a reservation to go there but finally decided, "No, maybe Lil is not quite ready to extend, expose herself that much." So I says, "Well, maybe we'd better cancel." So we canceled out but this maybe the last reunion in Hawaii. However we need to host this Company K, now Company K Club, there is more than one. We have a Chapter in France, Company K. And we have a Chapter in

R. KASHIWAGI: Hawaii, and then we have a Chapter here in United States, in California. Now, next 1999, we were told that we need to host...

L. KASHIWAGI: 1990 wasn't it?

R. KASHIWAGI: 1999.

L. KASHIWAGI: Or, 2000?

R. KASHIWAGI: No, not 2000, I think its 1999. We need to, that's next year, see.

L. KASHIWAGI: Oh.

R. KASHIWAGI: Then we need to host them with another reunion. However 1998 their hosting us, which although we can't attend, this will be in Oahu, yeah. And so, you see, we're taking turn, back and forth. And one we'll go to Los Angeles, once we'll go to Seattle, but now 1999, we're going to host them in Reno. And so we're looking forward to 1999 when we can host them and meet some of the old buddies that you know, we were very affiliated with. Last year, 1997, wasn't it, '96, wasn't it when we met in Reno? There were, you know, in a Squad there are 12 members in a squad. And out of the 12 original members, there were seven of us were able to take pictures. Of course they were injured and landed in hospitals and so forth. But anyhow, there were seven, I think of us, that actually got together to take a picture. But then now there's going to be even fewer because they are, they are invalid now where they can't, in fact, several died and so it'd be even fewer.

C. UMEDA: Now, were you in Company K, is that the first...

R. KASHIWAGI: The original.

C. UMEDA: Your original group. As soon as you got...

R. KASHIWAGI: As I volunteered from Amache...

C. UMEDA: Yeah, yes.

R. KASHIWAGI: I'm already assigned to that.

C. UMEDA: Oh, so, how many men, men are in one Company?

R. KASHIWAGI: Two hundred and fifty, it's a full strength.

C. UMEDA: 250, Oh, okay. And then, so your...

R. KASHIWAGI: Squad, there's ah, ah, Company, Platoon and Squad.

C. UMEDA: I see.

R. KASHIWAGI: See...

C. UMEDA: And so your Company K, could include everyone?

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, it's the smallest. Yeah, 250.

C. UMEDA: I see, from those that remained from that. Okay.

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah.

C. UMEDA: And this is Company K is the one that went in to get the "Lost Battalion"?

R. KASHIWAGI: That's right, the Company L and Company K were the one that were assigned to go to the rescue of the "Lost Battalion". The other Companies were, what they call, Reserve or, or they were backup. But unfortunately, Company K and L were the first front line to go in and make the actual contact.

C. UMEDA: So although only 7 people came to the, in the last photograph, how many do you estimate are remaining in your Company K?

R. KASHIWAGI: Oh, you gotta remember that ah, they keep on adding.

C. UMEDA: That's true. That's true. Oh, yeah.

R. KASHIWAGI: They keep adding replacement. Now as far as Company K is concerned, after the "Lost Battalion" campaign, there was only 17 out of 250 surviving see. But, you know, they were not exactly dead, but they were injured or hospitalized or otherwise. So that there were only 17 left and there were no, there were no commissioned officers so my Platoon Sargent, at that time I was already injured, so I was going into hospital in England. But the, my Platoon Sargent received a field commission and it's one of the highest rank, citation one could get is a field commission. You know, without going through officer's training school. Anyhow, out of the 17 persons, there was only seven left in the Company L. So you can imagine the casualty and so when the, the final tally was, there were 230 or so rescued out of the "Lost Battalion". We lost 800 men to make this rescue of only 230. Which was a very expensive tradeoff.

C. UMEDA: Very good. Well you've left a nice legacy for your children and if nothing else perhaps you know, your history and your story will be sort of a starting point to get your children interested in. And if nothing else, leave something for your grand children to remember, because its pretty remarkable.

C. UMEDA: Is there anything else you'd like to sort of add to this? It seems like we've sort of tackled and come through pretty much all the things that I was real curious to be sure to get included here.

L. KASHIWAGI: I think of the three, I think Gordon is the most curious one.

R. KASHIWAGI: He's the one most interested.

L. KASHIWAGI: He's the most curious one.

C. UMEDA: Well, curious or not, this is part of their legacy, you know. The history of what you did in your participation, the timing, your place in history in terms of what you did. This is all, not only good for our oral history project but something that could be shared with other people, just to know what your contribution was to our country.

And well I thank you very much Bob for preparing for this interview and then in participating. And I know it certainly makes me proud as your sister-in-law to claim you as part of our family. And I know that you've enriched all of our lives and I appreciate this time to sit with you and get this oral history.

R. KASHIWAGI: Well, all I can, can add is possibly show my appreciation for ah, at least recognizing and ...

L. KASHIWAGI: ... This is yours, huh, dad?

R. KASHIWAGI: Yeah, that's right. And understanding myself, you know, to remember me and not just something that's going to be remembered by one or two, you know, later on in years. But you gave me an

R. KASHIWAGI: opportunity to put a little "X" mark on my life while here on this earth. [Chuckle]

C. UMEDA: Well you've left a nice legacy for not only your children but for future generations. And I appreciate it and thank you very much for participating with us.

[End, Tape 2, Side B]

APPENDIX

25% COTTON

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND PAPER



CONSERVATREE BOND

APPENDIX

1. Kashiwagi Family Tree. Pages 3.
2. June 4, 1937, Woodland High School Commencement Exercises program. Pages 2.
3. Memoirs as Remembered by Robert Kashiwagi. Prepared at the request of Masayo Duus for inclusion in the publication of "Unlikely Liberators – The Men of the 100th and 442nd". Pages 12.
4. July 16, 1945. Battle Honors – Citation of Unit from the President of the United States to the 3rd Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for the rescue of the Texan "Lost Battalion". Pages 2.
5. May 1953. Letter Orders - Bronze Star Medal and Combat Infantryman Badge for exemplary conduct in ground combat during the Rome-Arno Campaign in the Mediterranean Theater of Operation February 4, 1944.
6. Honorable Discharge, Army of the United States, Ichiji (Ichigi – error in spelling) Robert Kashiwagi, December 23, 1945. Pages 2.
7. August 1972, Letter and description from Norman Longmate requesting assistance as contributor to his forthcoming book "The G. I's". Pages 5.
8. "The G. I's – The Americans in Britian, 1942-1945" by Norman Longmate, Copyright 1975. Robert Kashiwagi, Sacramento, California listed as contributor on page 398. Pages 5.
9. "Unlikely Liberators – The Men of the 100th and 442nd" by Masayo Umezawa Duus, Copyright, 1983. Robert Kashiwagi interviewed and listed in the bibliography on page 253. Pages 5.

10. January 2, 1978. The Sacramento Bee article "WWII Center: Camp Kohler Fades".
Bob was interviewed by Steve Capps, Special to the Bee. Pages 3.
11. October 1978. Walsall Observer, London, newspaper article regarding Bob and
Lillian's visit with Mrs. Millicent Hadley.
12. October 1985, Company "K" representatives attend commemorative ceremonies at
the "American Battle Monuments Commission - Epinal American Cemetery and
Memorial, in the Vosges mountains, Breyeres, France. Pages 3.
13. January 10, 1991, letter of apology from U. S. President George W. Bush for World
War II internment.
14. November 17, 1991, The Sacramento Bee article "Japanese-Americans suffered to
defend U.S.". Reporter Jeannie Wong interviewed Robert Kashiwagi.
15. August 1984, Hole-in-One Certificate to Robert Kashiwagi.
16. May 1994, acknowledgement from Folsom Middle School for presentation regarding
Japanese American experience and U. S. Constitution.

KASHIWAGI FAMILY TREE

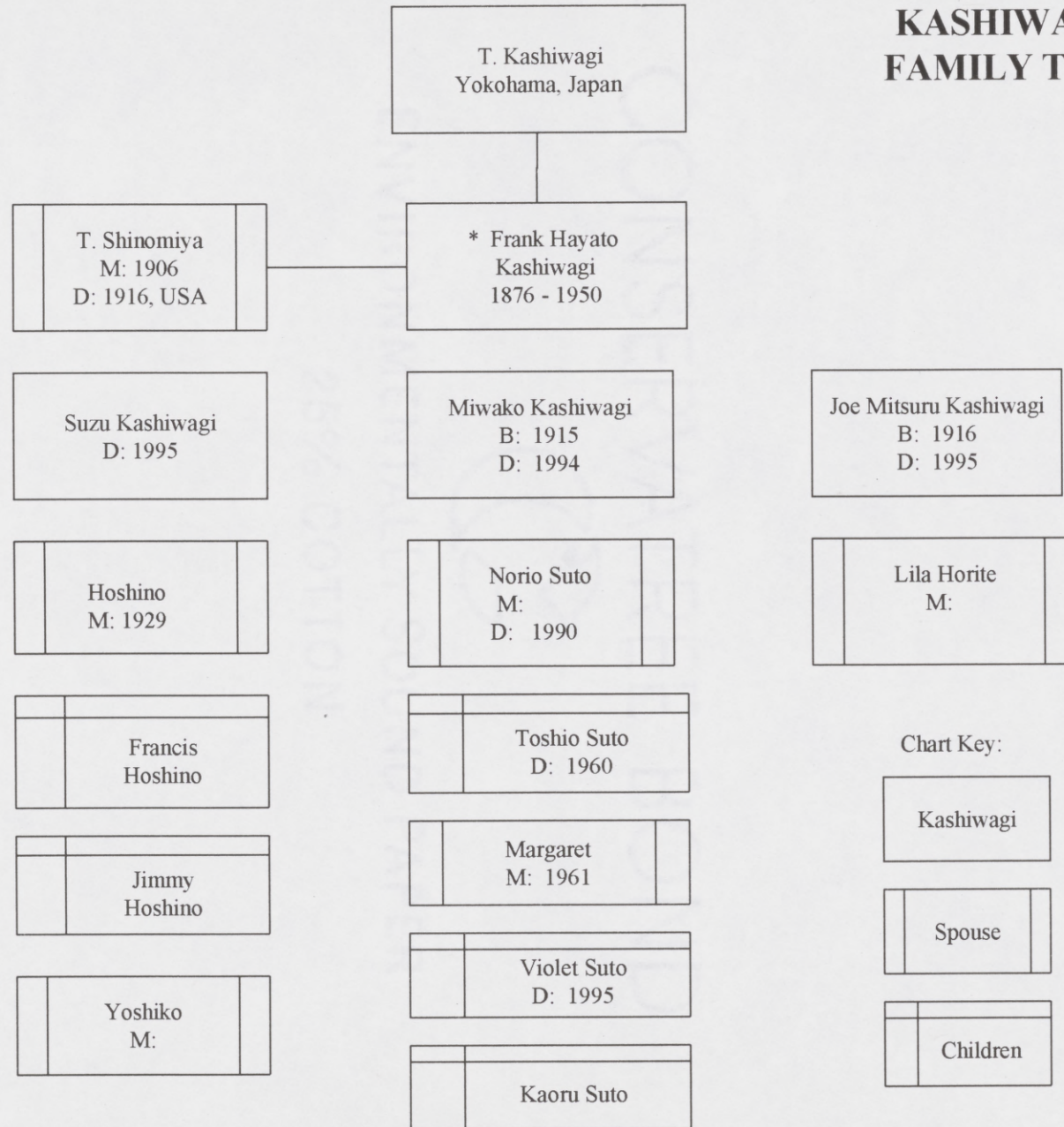


Chart Key:

Kashiwagi

Spouse

Children

KASHIWAGI FAMILY TREE

* Frank Hayato
Kashiwagi
1876 - 1950

Tatsu Furusawa
M: 1916
D: 1969

Chiyo Kashiwagi
B: 7-29-17
D: 9-25-90

Robert Ichiji
Kashiwagi
B: 2-11-19

George Yoshio
Kashiwagi
B: 12-8-21
D: 1-94

June Iseko
Kashiwagi
B: 6-25-22
D: 12-96

Kimi Kashiwagi
B: 1923
D: 9-11-87

Tom Kaoru
Kashiwagi
B: 1926

Infant Kashiwagi
D: Infancy

Tad Murakami
M: 1947

Lillian Asoo
B: 1924
M: 1947

Kinuko
M: 1949

Roy Yokote
M: 1948

Sam Matsutani
M: 1948

Chizu Tateishi
M: 1950

Gregory
Murakami
B: 1949

Gordon Alan
Kashiwagi
B: 1950

Gail Yokote
B: 1949

Colleen
Kashiwagi
B: 1952

Craig Murakami
B: 1951

Chi Hoang
M: 1954

Royce Yokote
B: 1952

Cory Kashiwagi
B: 1954

Barbara
Murakami
B: 1953

Tina Michiko
Kashiwagi
B: 1993

Alan Toshiro
Kashiwagi
B: 1995

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| | Cathleen Joy Kashiwagi B: 1953 |

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| | Terry Nishizaki B: 1954 M: 1979 | |

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| | Jennifer Miyeko Nishizaki B: 1987 |
|--|---|

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|--|-------------------------------------|
| | Leah Milani Nishizaki B: 1995 |
|--|-------------------------------------|

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|--|------------------------------------|
| | |
| | Kerry Dean Kashiwagi B: 1958 |

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|--|--|--|
| | | |
| | Sueann Katsuye Yenokida B: 1959 M: 1986 | |

KASHIWAGI FAMILY TREE

(continued)

Chart Key:

| |
|-----------|
| Kashiwagi |
|-----------|

| |
|--------|
| Spouse |
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|----------|
| Children |
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| |
|--------|
| Spouse |
|--------|

| |
|-------------------|
| Grand children |
|-------------------|

October 1999

CLASS OF 1937



Class Officers

President, Malcolm Nicolson;
Vice-President, Hugh Flynn; Secretary, Maxine Dutcher;
Treasurer, Estella Mumma

Class Flower—Red Rose
Class Colors—Blue and Silver
Class Motto—"We Came, We Studied, We Succeeded"



Scholarship Honor Roll

(Twenty-five highest students in Senior Class)

Jean Lyons
Harry Rohr
Wayne Leiser
Ellen Hoecker
Winifred Regier
Virginia Cleveland
Nora Hill
Helen Levin
Ichigi Kashiwagi
Ted Inaba
Alvin Hiatt
Jack Doty

Annette Van Tassel
Jean Sueoka
Elwyn Richter
Bethel Brown
Alice Zimmerman
Donald Lunt
Joe Espigares
Jane Fitzgerald
Mildred Thomson
Ellouise Jessup
Tom Monroe

Vera Newman
Elmer Robinson

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES



Hyman Field
Woodland High School
Woodland, California



Friday Evening
JUNE 4, 1937

CLASS ROLL

Martin Alley
Helen Allison
Blanche Anderson
Gloria Appleby
Albert Bell
Willie Beltrami
Clark Bender
Geneva Beers
Geneve Beers
Pershing Bradt
Lelwyn Breckenridge
Carl Bremer
Bethel Brown
Chester Brown
Hans Christiansen
Victor Christison
M. James Clardy
Ray Clark
Virginia Cleveland
Hazel Colombani
Eugene Comontofski
Jack Cooper
Helen Curry
Masuo Daikai
Gilbert Dodds
Wilfred Dodds
Florence Dorris
Jack Doty
Dick Dryden
Maxine Dutcher
Joe Espigares
Jane Fitzgerald
Ronald Flohr
Hugh Flynn
Verna Fourness
Augustino Garibaldi
Ellinore Germeshausen
Karl Giguere
Sue Giguere
Ruth Green
Eugenia Gregg
Phyllis Gustafson
Eleanora Hansen
Thelma Hansen
Maurice Hartzell
Alvin Hiatt
Nora Hill

Ellen Hoecker
Maynard Holland
Janice Hollingsworth
Cairns Hooper
Etta Howard
Evelyn Hulen
Isabel Hunter
Ted Inaba
Ralph Jacobsen
Marguerite Jenks
Ellouise Jessup
Marguerite Jones
Ichigi Kashiwagi
Leland Kergel
Patricia Ann Koch
Vernon Kuhn
Helen Lee
Donna Leishman
Wayne Leiser
Frank Lemus
Frank Lera
Helen Levin
Vernon Liddle
Laverl Lines
Nellie Logan
Joseph Lombardi
Donald Lunt
Jean Lyons
Evelyn Martinez
Sybil Marvin
Edward McFadden
Nona Meredith
Ruth Mezger
Tom Monroe
Joe Moreno
Estella Mumma
Aida Musso
Yoshitatsu Nakaguma
Dorothy Nakano
Frank Nakayama
Vera Newman
Malcolm Nicolson
Goro Nitta
Eva Novelli
Edward Ochoa
Haruye Ogata
Donald Osborne

Earl Orser
Mariane Paisley
Salvador Parino
Harold Parker
Elizabeth Patterson
Ray Penrose
Mollyellen Peterson
Martin Plocher
Lois Pratt
Winifred Regier
Elmer Reuter
Joe Richardson
Eileen Richter
Elwyn Richter
Bernie Robben
Elmer Robinson
Harry Rohr
June Rominger
Norine Roth
Earl Russell
Lorena Sanders
Pat Scarlett
Albert Schluer
Carl Schneider
Helen Schmitz
Frank Schwarzgruber
Joe Schwarzgruber
Ardis Serr
Wesley Shellhammer
August Silberstein
Ralph Silva
Jean Sueoka
Ruth Tanaka
Jack Taylor
Mildred Thomson
Jack Tozzi
Louise Umberger
Lorraine Valine
Annette Van Tassel
Vera Van Zee
James Waters
Bill Whitney
Melvin Wilson
Irving Womack
Clifford Yerman
Alice Zimmerman

PROGRAM

Processional Class of 1937

Song, "Star Spangled Banner" Audience

Invocation Rev. J. J. Evans

Welcome Malcolm Nicolson

Overture, "Morning, Noon and Night" (Suppe) . . .
. High School Band and Orchestra

Salutory, "School For Life" Harry Rohr

Clarinet Quartette, "Merriment Polka" (Barnard) .
Cairns Hooper, Victor Christison, Elmer Robinson,
and Vernon Liddle.

Valedictory, "Old Answers To New Questions"
. Jean Lyons

Vocal Solo, "Kiss Me Again" (Victor Hurbert)
Verna Fourness; Maurice Hartzell, accompanist.

Address Dr. Joel H. Hildebrand
Professor of Chemistry, University of California.
Introduced by Mr. Charles Hardy, Member, Board
of Education.

March, "Semper Fidelis" (Souza)
. Band and Orchestra

Presentation of Awards and Diplomas
. Principal E. H. Farr

Benediction Rev. W. H. Nelson

**MEMOIR AS REMEMBERED
BY
ROBERT ICHIJ I KASHIWAGI**

FATHER:

Frank Hayato Kashiwagi born 1876 in Yokohama, Japan. In 1896, he and his father immigrated to America and worked in the coalmines of Montana. In 1899 after a short stay in Japan, Frank returned to America to run a fruit ranch in Borden [Vorden], Calif. He married T. Shinomiya in 1906 in a so-called "picture bride" arrangement. She bore three children, Suzu, Miwako [Suto], and Joseph. T. Shinomiya died in the 1916 flue epidemic after which Frank took his three children to Japan to be raised by their grand parents. In Japan, he met and married Tatsu Furusawa and returned to America to live out his life. Seven children were born from this second marriage, Chiyo [Murakami], Robert Ichiji, George Yoshio, June Iseko [Yokote], Kimi [Matsutani], Tom Kaoru, and an unnamed baby boy who died in infancy.

ROBERT ICHIJ I:

Robert was born February 11, 1919 on the Meek's Estate in Hayward, Calif. Entered first grade at the San Lorenzo Grammar School. My early recollection was my father was the foreman for the 6,000-acre fruit and vegetable ranch for many years. Although we were comfortable, I do recall that the kitchen floor was bare ground and our lighting was candles and kerosene lamps. Of course our kitchen stove and heater were wood burning.

The Meek's Estate was sold for subdivision in 1927 so the landlord transferred my father to a 2,000 acre rice farm in Knights Landing, Calif. Our home was about two miles from town, which meant a fair walk to go to school or to do some shopping. My father did

not drive but we had a long time Filipino friend names Ceriaco Trellees who had a car. He was like a member of the family. He would drive us all round, do chores and even cut our hair.

Our family, being the only Japanese family in Knights Landing, was isolated and we grew up with few close friends. Minorities, especially Japanese were not readily accepted in the community. We also were busy with chores and helping on the farm so there was very little time for play.

I graduated from the eighth grade from the Grafton Grammar School in Knights Landing in the summer of 1933. This was after we had returned from a short stay in San Francisco and things were improving after the depression. I then enrolled in the Woodland High School in Woodland, California. I took a bus to school every day since the school was twelve miles from home. Fresh out of high school, I went back to work on the farm but found it difficult to keep up with the other workers. My mother kept riding me to work harder. This pressure made me lose interest for farm life plus the fact I was not getting paid for this full-time work on the farm. I became active with the YMCA program in Woodland.

The world situation was becoming serious around 1940 and the draft system was put in place. I felt the need to encourage the Japanese American draftees so I started pre-induction send off parties for the draftees. I arranged to invite the community leaders including school principals and the mayor to attend these functions.

In October of 1941, my draft number was picked so I reported to the induction center for my physical examination. My chest x-ray showed an abnormal lung condition so I was rejected and returned home reclassified as 4F, not available for the draft. Since it was a slack time on the farm, I went to Pescadero, California with our friend Ceriaco to help harvest

brussel sprouts. It was during this period that Pearl Harbor was bombed by the Japanese, December 7, 1941. I continued to work since there was no stopping the brussel sprouts harvest. However, as news of the deteriorating state of the Philippine Islands came in and my being the only Japanese in a crew of 50 Filipinos, it became very uncomfortable. My friend Ceriaco thought it best to return home.

Our trip home required us to cross the Carquinez Bridge, which proved to be complicated. There were restrictions for Japanese people to be near bridges or other vital structures. Fortunately I was riding with a Filipino so the guard let us pass. We also had a flat tire, which made our ride home more difficult.

The Yolo County Health Department was alerted about my abnormal lung condition so I was instructed to see a doctor. Thinking I was tubercle, Dr. Copeland of Woodland arranged for me to enter a sanitarium in Colfax, California. Doctor Roberts of the sanitarium subsequently diagnosed my condition as coccidioidomycosis. A fungus disease usually contacted from the soil in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley. It seems that my resistance was run down as I was working twenty-one hours a day, six days a week during the tomato harvests time.

When President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Executive Order #9066 on February 19, 1942, my doctor was put in a difficult position. I was the only Japanese in the hospital and all persons with 1/16 percent Japanese blood or more had to be removed from the West Coast. I advised my doctor that I would join my family and evacuate with them. I had a difficult time in the relocation camp at Amache, Colorado, as medical services and medication was not readily available to me. I remained in bed for one year without any

medical attention. However, my father was able to get a pass to walk to a near by town once a week to purchase steaks and canned oysters to supplement my meal in the camp.

In March of 1943, an army recruiting team came to Amache to sign up volunteers for a combat infantry unit; the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT). This unit was to be composed of Japanese American volunteers from the relocation camps and the Territory of the Hawaiian Islands. The goal was to recruit 3,000 from the relocation camps and 1,500 from the Hawaiian Islands. Only 1,200 volunteered from the relocation camps but over 10,000 were signed from Hawaii. It was obvious why so few men wanted to volunteer from behind barbed wire fences. We were given a choice, volunteer for the 442 RCT or refuse and be considered disloyal. I felt the only way I could get out of camp was to volunteer so I volunteered from my sick bed. It seems my physical condition did not matter. The military and I felt that I was going to be cannon fodder any how – this turned out to be true as the unit suffered over 300 percent casualty.

I was inducted into the Army at Fort Logan, Colorado, but I did request a one-month delay in route before I report to duty. This, I thought, was necessary as I was in very poor physical condition after being confined in bed for one year. I arrived at Camp Shelby, Mississippi in April of 1943 and was put through a catch-up course. My unit, "Company K" was already well into basic training. It was during this period that it was most difficult and traumatic for me. I can still remember falling exhausted into my hut not able to clean up for supper and just laid on my bunk. Everyday after training all day we practically ran the five miles back to camp. We eventually covered that distance in 45 minutes. This paid off in combat as we were recognized as a very fast maneuvering unit that surprised the enemy

many times. Since I was in no condition to get to the mess hall in time to get my supper, I would go to the Post Exchange and eat, so-called, junk food many a days.

Our training was being completed but not without some rather serious incidents. There were many fights with Caucasian soldiers who didn't like to see Orientals dancing with Caucasian girls in the USO. Some prejudiced bus drivers didn't like Orientals and treated us like they were treating Black people at that time. Some of these bus drivers were severely beaten. The situation got so serious that our Commanding Officer, Colonel Pence, assembled us and warned that if these incidents did not stop we would be returned to the relocation camps and they would throw away the key.

After we completed basis training the authorities decided to test us by having us guard the elite German troops who were captured in North Africa. These members of General Rommel's army were used to harvest peanuts in Troy, Alabama. We eventually became quite used to the six-foot cream-of-the-crop of the German Army. They were tired of fighting and we became quite at ease with them as we traded our potatoes for their rice. The German soldiers really loved our bacon; they would eat it raw. They all sang quite well and we would serenade each other across the barbed wire fences. They even demonstrated how they did their manual of arms using our guns.

In April of 1944, the 442nd was given the order to ship overseas for combat. As it was close to Mother's Day, I ordered flowers to be sent to my mother. She was bedridden having suffered a massive stroke while interned in Amache Camp. We arrived at Port News, Virginia, our port of embarkation. A convoy of 250 ships was being grouped and we were to join them on a zigzag route to Europe. But before we could board a Victory ship, our assigned transportation, we were involved in some more serious incidents. A few of our

boys got into fights with Caucasian soldiers waiting to ship over seas. It was fortunate that our boys could not get into the locked supply room to secure firearms, as they were angry enough to shoot up the camp.

On the slowest ship in the convoy, the ordeal took us twenty-eight days at a slow four knots an hour pace. We were on a constant vigil for German "U" boats. Finally, we passed the Rock of Gibraltar one ship at a time. The German Air Force was a constant threat that each ship launched a barrage balloon to discourage being strafed by airplanes. As seasick as I was, I really appreciated the beautiful sight as we sailed near the Sicilian coast. We disembarked at the bombed out harbor of Naples. What we first thought was an act of appreciation by the hoards of young Italian kids who swarmed us turned out to be their way of stealing our "K" rations. After regrouping, we boarded infantry landing crafts and were landed on the beach at Anzio.

We were attached to the 34th (Red Bull) Division as the reserve unit and pursued the enemy as they had broken out of the beachhead and were advancing towards Rome. The Germans declared Rome an open city and did not fortify it. What a strange sight to see us following hundreds of packhorses and mules as we walked around the Coliseum and other family sights of interest. Just two miles from Rome near the town of Civetaveccia, Italy, the 442nd RCT relieved the 517th parachute regiment. From there we lead the Fifth Army in pursuit of the enemy up the Italian Peninsula. It was only a few weeks later near a roadblock by St. Regold, Italy that I was caught in a German artillery barrage. I received my first Purple Heart on July 17, 1944 for shrapnel wounds. I was guarding a crossroad and was bounced around by German artillery zeroed in on that cross road.

We continued to spearhead the Fifth Army as we were being attached to any unit that was assigned to lead the attack. As these units became detached and were sent to reserve, we would be assigned to another lead unit. As we neared the Gothic Line, the main German defense line in Italy, I saw the Leaning Tower of Pisa from the hill a few miles from town. I remember that very well as I finally tried to eat a half cooked (raw) chicken that I carried for five miles in a water bucket I had commandeered from a farmhouse well. We were restricted from building fires and constantly on the move. I couldn't sneak a fire to finish cooking my precious chicken. The half-raw chicken was so tough my bad tooth was unable to handle it. I gave it up as a lost cause.

When we reached the Gothic Line at the Arno River near Florence, Italy, we were pulled back to prepare to be shipped to Southern France. I thought this was very strange, as we did not finish fighting in Italy. We found out later that the 442nd would be returning to Italy almost one year later and to the exact spot we left. Seems the Fifth Army waited for us while we fought in Southern France and then used us to break through the Gothic Line. I finally realized that we were expendable.

The 442nd landed in Marseilles, France to lead the Seventh Army, which had made a landing and was pursuing the enemy to the Switzerland boarder. Traveling to the front line in World War I vintage boxcars called "40 or 8" (40 men or 8 horses) was quite an experience. Troops in boxcars had the lowest priority for travel so we stopped or backed up for anything or everything on the tracks. These "40 or 8" box cards had no toilets and followed no scheduled stops. We resorted to self-preservation by chopping holes in the corner of the cars with our bayonets for toilet purposes. The nasty part of this arrangement was that many of us were suffering with stomach cramps and diarrhea. The result of

substituting or supplementing our "K" ration with raw, dried onions we found in farmhouses. As uncomfortable as this trip was, we were enlighten to pass many of Germany's huge war equipment that were destroyed by the Allied Air Force.

We eventually reached the front line near Bruyeres, France just in time to participate in the rescue of the "Lost Battalion." The 141st Battalion of the 36th Texas Division was surrounded and trapped ten miles inside of the enemy line for almost two weeks and were near annihilation. The remaining two regiments of the 36th Division made several attempts to reach their buddies but failed and they refused to make any more rescue attempts. They tried to re-supply the surrounded unit by dropping supplies using P-47 fighter bombers but the trapped unit was unable to get to the dropped supplies. I did see evidence of the enemy using the rations and medical supplies. The 36th Division even used their long-range artillery units to shoot chocolate bars and medical supplies inside emptied out artillery shells to the beleaguered unit. The ground was so soft and muddy that the shells would only become buried and the soldiers could not find them.

Finally, in desperation, the Commanding Officer of the 36th ordered the 442nd to make contact at all cost. The 442nd was in reserve at this time and was promised a shower and change into dry clothes and shoes. We were wet for two weeks straight and my underwear was so filthy that it could stand up on its own. As the shower was being set up an artillery shell came in destroying the shower and killing the two men setting it up. I was so disgusted with the filth that I walked to a near by rainwater puddle to wash my feet. It didn't matter how cold I was I had to wash my feet and change to a dry pair of socks. I usually carried a pair under my helmet. We were wet, cold and disgusted with everything and everyone.

We went into battle with a mean frame of mind. It was four days of terrible fighting. We saw so many of our fallen buddies, some with their brains spilled out on their shattered helmets. Come nightfall, we would "dig in" and have to step over bodies as we took turns pulling guard duty. All we could do was sit and listen to the moans and cries for help that would eventually fade away. We finally did make contact with the "Lost Battalion" and found 230 survivors.

The 442nd suffered over 800 casualty. What a high price we paid to save a General from being reprimanded for a catastrophic blunder. The General wanted to recognize us for our deed by having us assemble for an award ceremony, not realizing till then how few of us survived the mission. The 442nd did receive a Presidential Unit Citation. The battle of the "Lost Battalion" is recognized as one of the ten most significant battles fought by an American ground force.

But, instead of pulling us back to lick our wounds and reorganize, the General ordered us to push on and pursue the enemy while they were on the run. At daybreak we went out on patrol to locate the retreating German unit. Our squad was leading the patrol and we encountered the enemy coming forward to set up their machine guns. We hurried back to our unit and formed a skirmish line and charged the enemy. It was during this battle that I was caught in a mortar barrage. A fin from a mortar shell struck my right hand cutting my two fingers and opening the middle finger to the bone. I informed my buddy that I would need to go back to the first aid station to have my finger sewed up. As I was making my way back to Battalion aid, a barrage of artillery shells came in and showered me with tree burst rounds. One shell hit the Douglas Fir tree over my head and not having a foxhole to jump into I was exposed. Hot shrapnel went through my boot and imbedded into my left foot. As

hot and painful the injury was, I managed to limp to a foxhole where a fellow from another Platoon was. I asked him to unlace my boot to check to see if my foot was still attached. My foot was still attached but it had a hole in the side. He sprinkled sulfa powder on my wounds and wrapped it with a bandage I carried with me. The artillery barrage finally ended and a nearby litter bearer was used to carry me to an evacuation jeep on the road.

There were already three other wounded soldiers on the jeep. As luck would have it, another artillery barrage came in and blew a tire out on the jeep. We told the driver, "Forget the tire, let's get the heck out of here." We slipped and slide all the way to the aid station. The Medic wrapped my three wounds but it was so cold I did not lose much blood.

I was transferred to the 27th Field Hospital near Bruyeres, France where the doctor sewed my fingers and removed the shrapnel. The next day a Colonel came by and placed an Oak Leaf Cluster for my Purple Heart under my pillow. I probably should have received two as I suffered two different wounds at two different occasions. Since my injuries would take time to heal, I was transported to the 36th General Hospital in Dijon, France and placed on a C-47 ambulance plane to be flown to England. I was still not free of any mishaps for the plane blew a tire on takeoff. Fortunately, no one was hurt when the plane skidded off the runway.

I was hospitalized in the 127th General Hospital near Litchfield, England, for four months. It was during this time I met a very nice English family, who befriended me. I was invited into their home and met the family and relatives. This friendship has endured, even to this day, we keep in contact over the ocean. Our children call them Uncle Cyril and Aunt Milly and exchange letters. Sadly, Uncle Cyril has passed on and Aunt Milly is not able to travel far now. We still keep track of each other though.

My injuries prevented me from rejoining my original unit. I was assigned to the Port Marine Maintenance Motor Pool located in Le Harve, France. I was in charge of the motor pool garage. I was assigned three GI's and fourteen German POW's to help me maintain the units in the motor pool. Le Harve was not a friendly place for American GI's. The people of La Harve were very bitter of the Allied Forces for literally destroying the city in the invasion. We remained close to our area and did very little exploring and sightseeing. I eventually accumulated enough points to return to the US for discharge.

Both VE (Victory in Europe) and VJ (Victory in Japan) occurred while I was in La Harve. While I was waiting for transportation to the US, I ran into my brother, Tom. Tom was on his way to Belgium with an Armored Division. My brother, George, was a forward observer for the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, which was part of the 442 RCT. He had already re-enlisted and was awaiting assignment in the States.

The heavy cruiser SS Savannah was returning to the US for repairs. I was able to catch a ride back to the US. It took seven days to reach New York as opposed to the twenty-seven days it took on the trip over. I did not enjoy either trip to or back from Europe for I was seasick everyday at sea. Actually, I was ill before I left port and remained so a few days after landing.

I returned to California after stopping in Chicago to be with my sisters, Chiyo and Kimi. In Sacramento I found that my parents were staying in Camp Kohler because they had no place to live. I was able to stay at Camp Kohler a month for a small fee until I could find a home to move into. I had to find a job quick, my parents and I had little money to live on. As luck would have it the US Engineers Motor Pool had a man returning to the Hawaiian

Island. Even though I didn't look like a "Kanakan", a Hawaiian, the good boss hired me against the wishes of some of the workers.

Soon after that I was happily married to Lillian Miyeko Asoo and had three children; Gordon, Cathy and Kerry. It took a while but we are now blessed with four grand children; Jennifer, Tina, Leah and Alan.

The State of California was hiring and scheduled a civil service examine for a permanent position with the Division of Highways in 1947. I ranked within the top three and was hired. My hiring was not without some conflict; one man approached the foreman in protest and threatened to quit if I was hired. I stood my ground, as I knew I earned my right to hold my position. I retired after thirty-two years of honest, good service from what is now known as CalTrans.

As I write this memoir, I have enjoyed sixteen years of retirement, keeping active with various volunteer services such as the City College Library, the Boy Scouts of America and the Jan Ken Po Cultural Organization. I enjoy ballroom dancing and golfing and I am quite active with my church. My precious wife and I will soon be celebrating our golden anniversary – my how time flies!

R E S T R I C T E DHEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US Army

GENERAL ORDERS)

16 July 1945

NUMBER 317)

Award of the Silver Star. I
Battle Honors - Citation of Unit. II

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II - BATTLE HONORS - CITATION OF UNIT. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Section IV, Circular No. 333, War Department, 1943, the following named organization is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action:

THE 3D BATTALION, 442D REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM is cited for outstanding accomplishment in combat during the period 27 October to 30 October 1944, near Biffontaine, France. On 27 October the 3d Battalion, 442d Regimental Combat Team was committed to battle after one-and-a-half days in a divisional reserve. One of the battalions of another unit which had been advancing deep into enemy territory beyond the town of Biffontaine was suddenly surrounded by the enemy, and separated from all friendly units by an enemy force estimated at seven hundred men. The mission of the 3d Battalion was to attack abreast with the 100th Battalion and four other battalions and relieve the entrapped unit. The mission was more difficult than it first appeared for the enemy had reoccupied the thickly wooded hills situated within the two and one-half miles separating the "lost battalion" from our front lines. For four days the Battalion fought the stubborn enemy who was determined to stop all attempts to rescue the besieged battalion. Several roadblocks skillfully reinforced by machine guns had to be destroyed while under heavy artillery fire. On 29 October the Battalion encountered a well defended hill where the enemy, one hundred strong, held well dug-in positions on the hill and would not be dislodged. After repeated frontal assaults had failed to drive the enemy from the hill, Companies "I" and "K", then leading the attack, fixed bayonets and charged up the slope, shouting at the enemy and firing from their hips, while the enemy fired pointblank into their ranks. In spite of the effective enemy fire the determined men pressed the assault and closed in with the enemy. Nearing the enemy machine gun and machine pistol positions, some of the men charged the gun emplacements with their Thompson sub-machine guns or BARs killing or seriously wounding the enemy gun crew, but themselves sprawling dead over the enemy positions they had just neutralized. Completely unheeded by the vicious bayonet charge, the enemy fled in confusion after making a desperate stand. Though seriously depleted in man-power, the Battalion hurled back two determined enemy counterattacks, and after reducing a heavily mined

(over)

R E S T R I C T E D

GO No 317 Hq 7th Army
16 Jul 45 cont'd.

R E S T R I C T E D

PEARSON ROAD
roadblock, finally established contact with the besieged battalion. The intrepidity, fearless courage, and complete disregard for personal safety displayed by the officers and enlisted men of the 3d Battalion, 42d Regimental Combat Team, exemplify the finest traditions of the Armed Forces of the United States.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL HANSLIP:

PEARSON MINOHER
Brigadier General, GSC
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ Edward Fox
/t/ EDWARD FOX
Lt Col, AGD
Asst Adj Gen

A TRUE COPY:

Albert M. Foxy
ALBERT M. FOXY
CMC, USA, 442nd Inf
Assistant Adjutant

R E S T R I C T E D

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
RECORDS ADMINISTRATION CENTER
ST. LOUIS 20, MISSOURI

IN REPLY REFER TO:

AGRC-GD 201 Kashiwagi, Ichigi R.
37 345 855 (25 Feb 53)

1 May 1953

SUBJECT: Letter Orders - Bronze Star Medal

TO: Mr. Ichigi R. Kashiwagi
3735 Sacramento Boulevard
Sacramento, California

1. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9419, 4 February 1944 (Sec. II, WD Bul. 3, 1944), you have been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for exemplary conduct in ground combat against the armed enemy during the Rome-Arno Campaign in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations, while assigned as Private First Class, 442d Infantry Regiment.

2. Authority for this award is contained in paragraph 18, AR 600-45, and is based upon Special Orders 104, Headquarters 442d Infantry Regiment, dated 18 July 1944, which awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge.

3. The Commanding General, Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, will forward an engraved Bronze Star Medal to you on or about 12 June 1953.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

H. H. Newman
Adjutant General

1 Incl
BSM Cert



Honorable Discharge

This is to certify that

ICHIGI R KASHIWAGI

37345855 TEC 5 3RD GROUP REGULATING STATION

Army of the United States

is hereby Honorably Discharged from the military service of the United States of America.

This certificate is awarded as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service to this country.

Given at

SEPARATION CENTER
CAMP GRANT, ILLINOIS

Date

23 DECEMBER 1945

105
VOL 1242
OFFICE OF THE
JUDGE ADVOCATE
GENERAL
E. R. Kashiwagi
APR 23 1946

SACRAMENTO COUNTY
RECORDED

Paul J. Ritchie

PAUL J RITCHIE
LT COL INF

INDEXED/COMPARED
20354

NO FEE

ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION HONORABLE DISCHARGE


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| 1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL KASHIWAGI ICHIGI R | | | 2. ARMY SERIAL NO. 37 345 855 | | 3. GRADE TEC 5 | | 4. ARM OR SERVICE INF | | 5. COMPONENT AUS | | | | | |
| 6. ORGANIZATION 3RD GROUP REGULATING STATION | | | 7. DATE OF SEPARATION 23 DEC 45 | | 8. PLACE OF SEPARATION CAMP GRANT, ILLINOIS | | | | | | | | | |
| 9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES 3203 DOUGLAS BLVD CHICAGO ILLINOIS | | | | | 10. DATE OF BIRTH 11 FEB 1919 | | 11. PLACE OF BIRTH HAYWARD CALIF | | | | | | | |
| 12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE SOUGHT SEE 9 | | | | | 13. COLOR EYES BROWN | | 14. COLOR HAIR BLACK | | 15. HEIGHT 5 3 4 | | 16. WEIGHT 110 LBS. | | 17. NO. DEPEND. 2 | |
| 18. RACE JAPANESE | | 19. MARITAL STATUS X | | 20. U.S. CITIZEN X | | 21. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO. FARMER GENERAL 3-16.10 | | | | | | | | |

MILITARY HISTORY

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|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| 22. DATE OF INDUCTION 7 MAY 43 | | 23. DATE OF ENLISTMENT 14 MAY 43 | | 24. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE FT LOGAN COLO | | 25. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE FT LOGAN COLO | |
| 26. REGISTERED X | | 27. LOCAL S.S. BOARD NO. 35 | | 28. COUNTY AND STATE LAMAR COLO | | 29. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE COLO BLOCK 8 F BLDG #2 APT 2 GRANADA | |
| 30. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO. MOTOR POOL MECHANIC 014 | | | | 31. MILITARY QUALIFICATION AND DATE (i. e., Infantry, aviation and marksmanship badges, etc.) COMBAT INF BADGE SS RIFLE | | | |
| 32. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS ROME-ARNO NORTHERN APENNINES NORTHERN FRANCE | | | | | | | |
| 33. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS 3 OVERSEAS SERVICE BARS EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER RIBBON W/3 BRONZE BATTLE STARS GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL PURPLE HEART MEDAL GO #1 HQ 442 INF 18 AUG 44 * | | | | | | | |
| 34. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION 17 JUL 44 S REGOLD ITALY 1 NOV 44 BIFFONTAINE FRANCE | | | | | | | |
| 35. LATEST IMMUNIZATION DATES IMM MAR 44 SEP 45 STIM JAN 44 | | | | 36. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U. S. AND RETURN DATE OF DEPARTURE: 2 MAY 44 DESTINATION: ETO DATE OF ARRIVAL: 28 MAY 44 | | | |
| 37. TOTAL LENGTH OF SERVICE CONTINENTAL SERVICE: 0 Y 11 M 24 D FOREIGN SERVICE: 1 Y 7 M 16 D TEC 5 11 DEC 45 | | | | 38. HIGHEST GRADE HELD TEC 5 11 DEC 45 | | | |
| 39. PRIOR SERVICE NONE | | | | 40. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION CONV OF GOVT RR 1-1 (DEMOBILIZATION) AR 615-365 DTD 15 DEC 1944 | | | |
| 41. SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED NONE | | | | 42. APPLICATION FOR READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCE MADE THROUGH STATE CALIFORNIA DATE 8 DEC 1944 EDUCATION (Years) 8 4 0 | | | |

PAY DATA VOU 18746

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| 43. LONGEVITY FOR PAY PURPOSES 2 Y 7 M 17 D | | | 44. MUSTERING OUT PAY TOTAL \$ 300 THIS PAYMENT \$ 100 | | 45. SOLDIER DEPOSITS NONE | | 46. TRAVEL PAY \$46.45 | | 47. TOTAL AMOUNT, NAME OF DISBURSING OFFICER \$146.45 G F DOLBEAR CAPT FD | | | |
| INSURANCE NOTICE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| IMPORTANT IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WHEN DUE OR WITHIN THIRTY-ONE DAYS THEREAFTER, INSURANCE WILL LAPSE. MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER OF THE U. S. AND FORWARD TO COLLECTIONS SUBDIVISION, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 48. KIND OF INSURANCE X | | | 49. HOW PAID X | | 50. Effective Date of Allotment Discontinuance 31 DEC 45 | | 51. Date of Next Premium Due (One month after 50) 31 JAN 46 | | 52. PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH \$ 6.70 | | 53. INTENTION OF VETERAN TO X | |

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|  RIGHT THUMB PRINT | 55. REMARKS (This space for completion of above items or entry of other items specified in W. D. Directives) *W/1 BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER GO 45 HQ 27 EVAC HOSP. 1 NOV 44 DISTINGUISHED UNIT BADGE GO 317 HQ 7TH ARMY 16 JUL 45 LAPEL BUTTON ISSUED ASR SCORE (2 SEP 45) 69 ERC TIME FROM 7 MAY 43 TO 13 MAY 43 | |
| | 56. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED <i>Ichigi R. Kashiwagi</i> | |
| 57. PERSONNEL OFFICER (Type name, grade and organization - signature) <i>Amelia Anthony</i> AMELIA ANTHONY 1ST LT WAC | | |

From : Norman Longmate,
c/o Hutchinsons Ltd, 3 Fitzroy Square, London W.1., England.
(Postal Code : London W1P 6JD)

Reference: Via H268

30th August 1972

Mr. R.I. Kashiwagi,
1212 Monte Vista Way,
Sacramento,
California 95831.

Dear Mr. Kashiwagi,

I have been given your name by Mr. & Mrs. E.C. Hadley
of Walsall as a possible contributor to my forthcoming
book THE G.I.s, about which I am enclosing a Note.

If you care to send me any reminiscences I should,
of course, be delighted to hear from you. If, however,
you do not feel able to help, please do not trouble
to reply to this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Norman Longmate

Enc.

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

Mr. R.I. Kashiwagi,
1212 Monte Vista Way,
Sacramento,
California 95831,
U.S.A.



Attachment 7

THE G.I.s

The impact of the American serviceman on Britain during World War Two

The Scope of the Book

This book will tell the story of the American serviceman, and service-woman, who served in England (or Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) between December 1941 and August 1945. It will describe how England appeared to the American serviceman; and how the American serviceman appeared to the British civilian. The book will deal with everyday life - not the memoirs of generals, or of those who took part in combat missions against the enemy - but what the ordinary officer or enlisted man thought about British food, and trains, and 'pubs' and people. The experience of those who served alongside the armed forces, in the American Red Cross or the U.S. Embassy in London, will be welcome, but this is meant to be above all the ordinary G.I.'s story.

Preparing Material

A list of probable chapter headings is attached, with more detailed subjects below each one. This is intended to help get your memory stirring, but it is not exhaustive. There may be subjects you remember which I have not mentioned; there will certainly be some on which you remember nothing at all. Please write about what you remember best and, though amusing or unusual anecdotes will be very welcome, do not be put off because your own recollections seem 'ordinary'. It is the story of the ordinary people which often gets overlooked in the history books and a little information, on a lot of subjects, from a great many people, adds up to a comprehensive picture.

You may find it hard to remember when things happened. Often you can work out dates by a little hard thought. For example, 'I remember it happened soon after my birthday, so it must have been in July. It can't have been July 1942, as I was still in the States then, or July 1944, as I was in France, so it must have been July 1943'. Or, 'It was just after the flying bombs started', which I can easily date.

It will be helpful if you will write or type your contribution on one side of the paper only, in double spacing, or on alternate lines, which makes it much easier to edit. Don't forget to include your name and address (including 'Mr', 'Mrs' or 'Miss'.) If you do not want this included in the list of acknowledgements at the end of the book write 'GIVE NAME' against it. Your name, age, etc, will not be linked to your contribution in the book, which will refer to you as 'A twenty-year old sergeant from California then in the 101st Airborne..' or 'A navigator, fresh from college in Michigan, now in the 66th Fighter Wing..'. Your name will appear in a list of acknowledgements at the end of the book, with a shortened address, e.g. 'John L. Hardy, Brownsville, Tennessee' and your full address will not be given to anyone without your permission. Owing to the number of contributors, no payment will be made for contributions, but you will be personally informed when the book is published. In general style it will be like my last book 'How We Lived Then' (Hutchinson, London, England, 1971), which will show you the type of material I am looking for.

If you have any wartime diaries, collections of press cuttings, letters, etc, which you think might be useful to me, please send me a brief description of them first, and, if I ask for them, please make sure your name and address, or reference number, is included before mailing them.

~~A reply-paid, addressed, envelope is enclosed.~~ Thank you very much for your help.

Norman Longmate

THE G.I.s

1. Preparation

Where did you live in December 1941? What was your civilian job? Did you have any family? How old were you? Had you visited England, or met any Englishmen, before the war? What ideas did you have about the English? What had given you your impressions of the English - books, movies, friends? When did you enlist in the Forces? Army, Navy or Air Corps? Your job in the Armed Forces? Your rank? Where were you stationed before going overseas? When were you told you were going to England? What were the reactions of (a) yourself, (b) your comrades? What preparation was there - lectures on England, booklets? Where did you sail, fly, from? How long did the journey take? What did other members of your unit say about England and what they expected to find there?

2. Arrival

Where did you arrive in England? When? What were your first impressions - police, customs officials, 'NAAFI' (the British P.X. and Red Cross) canteens on the dockside or railway station, the country, civilians you spoke to? How did you reach your new camp? What did the men already there tell you about the area and its inhabitants? Did you find any British customs puzzling - drinking in 'pubs', smoking in cinemas, driving on the left? How were you treated by the local inhabitants the first times you went out from your camp? What did you think about British shops, buses, trains, children? How long before you began to feel at home in England?

3. Front Line

(This chapter will deal with the life of G.I.s based in Britain and manning camps, transportation units, etc, there, or operating against Germany from bases in the British Isles.)

4. Somewhere in England

(This chapter will deal with G.I.s who trained in England before going overseas, especially the great exercises and rehearsals for D-Day which took place in the West Country and inevitably affected British civilians.)

5. Stopping Off

(This chapter will discuss the experiences of the G.I.s who merely passed through the British Isles on their way to other battlefields, or on their way home.)

All three chapters will cover the following subjects:

The reaction of the British people to the Americans in their midst. Were they welcoming and friendly, or the reverse? How did the Americans feel about the British people who manned Army offices, canteens, etc? Were there official receptions, parties, etc, to welcome Americans to the locality, or vice versa? Were relations with British servicemen (both on duty and off-duty) cordial? Did British civilians cheerfully accept having their streets and countryside 'taken over' by Americans or did they complain when farms and homes were damaged during training? Did long-stay Americans begin to feel part of the local community? Were local civilians sympathetic over accidents and operational casualties?

6. Rainbow Corner

Where did you go on leave (furlough) in England? Did any places you visited especially interest or impress you? Did any fail to come up to your expectations? Did you visit bombed areas as well as the 'tourist sights'? Were the English people you met helpful? If so, can you remember any special occasions of this kind? What were your reactions to London? Did you visit any British homes? Did you encounter any misunderstandings due to different national habits, differences of language, etc? What did you think about British trains, buses, policemen and other British people you came in contact with?

7. Kitchen Parade

What were your impressions of British food? Do you remember any British dish you particularly liked/disliked? If you were able to give food to British civilians, what did they seem to like best? Were there any British eating habits which seemed strange to you? Do you remember any unusual or amusing incidents at meals with British families? What American dish, if any, did you miss most in Britain: doughnuts, ice cream, maple syrup, etc?

8. Warm Beer and Cold Scotch

What did you think about British drinks, drinking habits and 'pubs'? Did you acquire a favourite 'local', and become accepted there, or even join the darts team? Do you remember any particular good or bad evenings drinking with British civilians? What American drinks did they like best? Were there any British drinking songs you learned, or any American ones you taught?

9. Cigarettes and Candy

What did you think of British cigarettes and candy? What did the British seem to think of the American brands you gave them? Did you have any contact with British children, and what did they seem to like most about American food and candy? Did your unit ever entertain the local children and if so can you recollect whether the party was a success and what parts of it were most popular?

10. How about a date, honey?

(Please be frank. Your contribution will not be identifiable in the book.) What had you heard about British girls and women before you arrived? What were your first impressions of them - and your second? What reputation did they have among your friends? Did you encounter any jealousy from British males? What did you think of British dance-halls and dances? Are there any evenings with a girl you still remember? How did you meet your girl-friends? Did you keep up a correspondence with any of them after you moved away? What did you particularly like, or dislike, about the British women you met? Were you even introduced to 'mum and dad' and how did they react to you? Is there any girl you met in England you still think about occasionally?

11. G.I. Brides

(This chapter will cover the experiences of Americans who married British girls and of British girls who married American servicemen.)

If you married an English girl, or are yourself a 'G.I. Bride', please describe how you met, what you found attractive about your partner, when and how you returned to the United States and what the later course of the marriage was, i.e. are you still married to the same person?

If you were a 'G.I. Bride' yourself, what were your first impressions of America, and of your new family? Did America come up to your expectations, or fall short of them? If the latter, why? If the marriage did not last, do you think this was due to differences in the British and American temperaments (and, if so, what were they) or to other reasons? Do you still keep in touch with your family in Britain? Do you ever feel homesick for Britain, or do you regard yourself now as '100 % American'?

12. Departure

When, and how, did you leave Great Britain? Were you sorry to go, and did the British people you knew best seem sorry to say goodbye? What souvenirs of England, if any, did you take with you? Had you acquired any English habits, or phrases, and if so do you still have them? Is there any English custom you still miss?

13. Staying Behind

(This chapter will be based on the reminiscences of Americans who stayed in Britain, or have come back to live there.)

Why did you stay/come back? What reactions did your friends in the Forces/family have to the news? Have you settled down to an English way of life - drinking tea rather than coffee, reading British newspapers rather than American ones, sending your children to a British school - or is your home a 'little America'? Do you plan to stay for life? Have you ever regretted settling down in Britain?

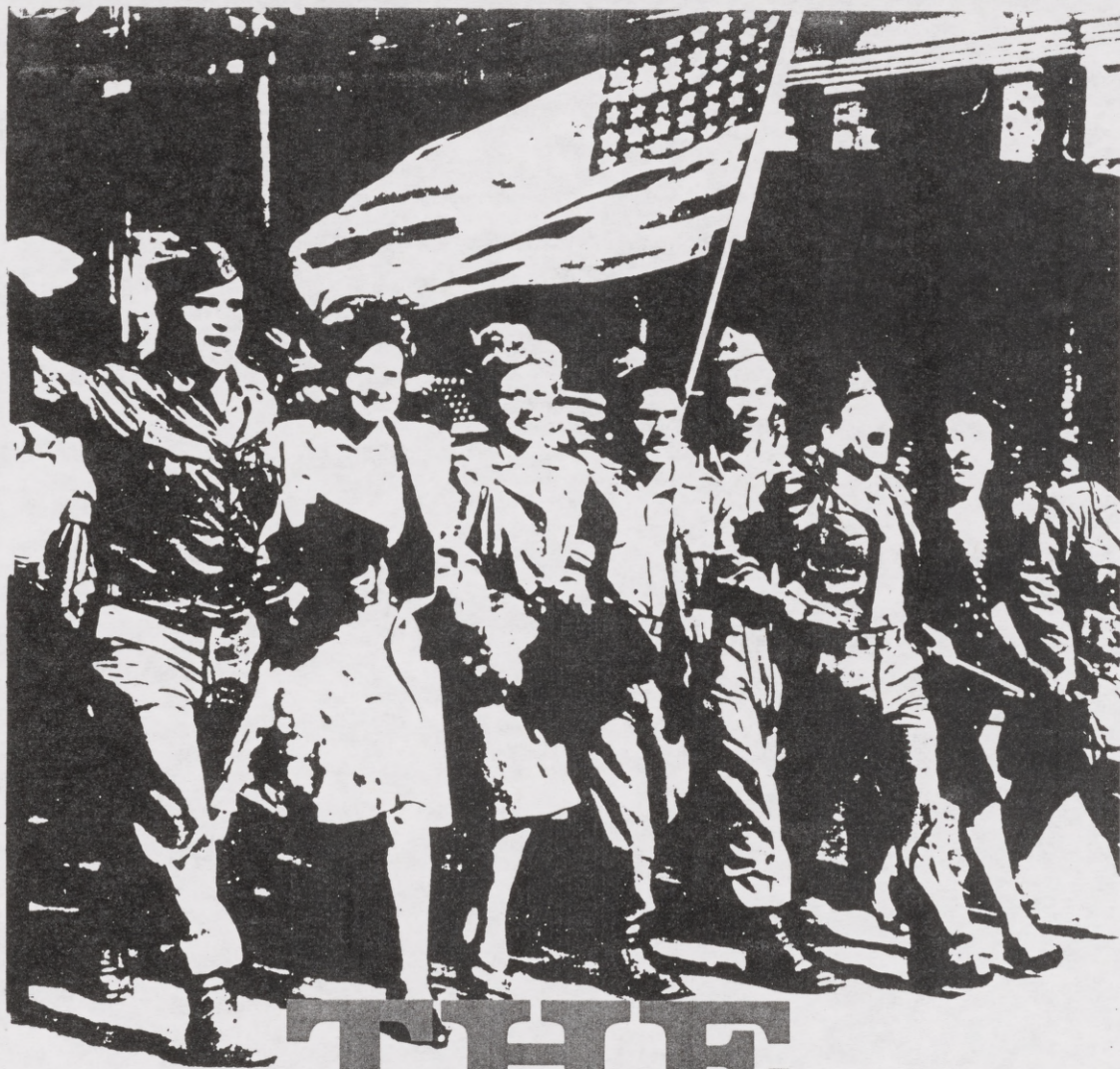
14. Looking Back

What do you remember best about your wartime service in England? Have you revisited it since? If so, were you disappointed, and if so, why? Have you kept in touch with any British friends you made during the war? Do you think your service in Britain has made you more or less sympathetic to British post-war problems, or has it made no real difference?

END

Longmate

\$12.50



THE
GI'S

THE GI'S

The Americans in Britain, 1942-1945

Norman Longmate

Scribners

Two
million
American
soldiers

were stationed in the British Isles during World War II. They had two major aims — fighting the Germans and meeting British girls, and they accomplished both splendidly. Their arrival had a profound effect on Britain, with an increased number of illegitimate babies being only one of them. American music began blaring from British pubs as the invaders—both white and black, with their unfamiliar ways and unheard-of accents—marched in, inviting the British to accept them as their new drinking companions. The meeting between the two very different cultures—the well-off, well-fed, boastful and yet naïve Americans and the suspicious, war-harried Britons—could have been a disaster. In fact, it was not. Integration went smoothly and peacefully, benefiting both of the parties involved. The Americans gradually became aware that theirs wasn't the only country on earth, and that other lands and other values could be as worthwhile as their own. The British became more democratic and even relaxed a little. Once the initial shock was absorbed, the two nations discovered a new liking and respect for each other.

Norman Longmate tells the story splendidly, basing it on the reminiscences of American and British soldiers, of British families who entertained G.I.'s in their homes, of British girls who were entertained by the boys from America, of G.I. brides who were faced with the daunting prospect of going "home" to America. These reminiscences are woven into a vivid narrative, humorous, touching, and real — one of the great human dramas of World War II.

Longmate

Norman Longmate is well known for his works of social history. As a soldier in the British Army, he served in an Anglo-American unit in World War II, and became familiar, first-hand, with the attitudes of the G.I. toward the British civilian. Among his other books are *HOW WE LIVED THEN* and *IF BRITAIN FELL*, which formed the basis of a notable B.B.C. documentary.

From The G.I.'s

A woman working... in Liverpool... remembers that an appeal was made over the loudspeaker system, one 23 December, for members of the staff to entertain G.I.'s who had arrived on a recently docked troopship.

After a quick mental calculation of rations I offered to have three... Prompt at one o'clock on Christmas Day there was a knock on the door heralding the arrival of Jim, Claud and Larry, the three youngest-looking G.I.'s I had ever seen, all looking as though they had just stepped out of a bandbox and with the most impeccable manners. Later... I learned that they had been briefed in no uncertain terms that they must be punctual, well turned out and courteous and respectful to their hosts... and that they were not to accept large portions or second helpings. At 3 p.m. the King's Speech was broadcast on the radio and as one man they all jumped to their feet and stood at attention until the end. Rather shamefacedly my husband and I stood during the playing of the National Anthem the second time around. As the day wore on, they did become a little more relaxed, but when they left at 10 p.m., as per instructions not to outstay their welcome, we felt that the day had not been an overwhelming success.

How wrong they were! Next day the trio telephoned to say thank you and were invited to come again and 'this time the stilted conversation of yesterday became a non-stop buzz of chatter and when they piled into a taxi in the early hours of the following morning we all felt that we had known each other for years'. From then on the three G.I.'s were frequent visitors until the fortunes of war carried them to their different destinations, North Africa, Italy and the Far East. Only thirty years later, when a prosperous-looking businessman with an American accent arrived on his former hosts' doorstep — an older version of one of the shy 'thin and pathetic-looking' young men they had entertained that Christmas — did they discover how much the invitation had meant to him. 'He said he was just eighteen and had buried his father whilst on embarkation leave, leaving his mother alone. He had never been away from home before and had landed in Liverpool only to be billeted in a stable on the racecourse in the middle of winter', leaving him 'so cold, miserable and downright unhappy that first night that he cried'.



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THE
G.I.'s

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THE WATERDRINKERS
HOW WE LIVED THEN
IF BRITAIN HAD FALLEN
THE WORKHOUSE
THE REAL DAD'S ARMY

In preparation

THE DAY WE WON THE WAR
TARGET 53: COVENTRY

NORMAN LONGMATE

THE G.I.'s
The Americans in Britain
1942-1945

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS
NEW YORK

To
F.E.L.

One of millions who helped to make them welcome

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Duus
Unlikely Liberators



Unlikely Liberators

The Men of the 100th and 442nd



by **Masayo Umezawa Duus**

Translated by **Peter Duus**

"You have fought not only the enemy,
but you have fought prejudice—and you
have won."

—President Harry S. Truman

Unlikely Liberators is the action-filled story of the men of the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Not trusted to fight in the Pacific, these sons of Japanese immigrants were sent instead to the European theater. In the eyes of their own government and the Europeans they liberated, they were an unlikely group of fighting men. They nevertheless engaged the enemy with astonishing heroism, winning battle after battle at Anzio, Salerno, Cassino, and in the Vosges Mountains. At the end of the war, the 100th and the 442nd emerged as America's most decorated units. They provided ample evidence of their patriotism to a country that had questioned their loyalty.

Masayo Duus begins her story with the formation of the Japanese American units, which were an outgrowth of America's ambivalent attitude toward the entire Japanese American community at the outbreak of the war. She recounts their experiences in training and during the early battles in Italy, including the conflicts between Japanese American and Caucasian troops. The final part of the story focuses on the battle in the Vosges forest, where the 442nd fought fiercely to rescue the "lost battalion" of Texans hopelessly cut off by the enemy.

Based on extensive research in War Department archives and nearly three hundred interviews with veterans of the 100th and 442nd, *Unlikely Liberators* first appeared in serialized form in Japan, where it won the Bungeishun-jusha Reader's Prize. It is an absorbing and personalized account of young men suddenly separated from their families and friends, often confused and sometimes suspicious about what the army wanted from them. It portrays them as individuals confronting the multiple crises of war and social rejection and it shows that their greatest achievement

was not their victory over a foreign enemy, but over prejudice at home. This book is a tribute to those men, who by their heroism reestablished for all Japanese Americans their personal dignity as full citizens in the country of their birth.



Masayo Umezawa Duus was born in Hokkaido, Japan, and graduated from Waseda University. She has lived in the United States since 1964. The author of six books, Masayo Duus is also a regular contributor to major Japanese newspapers and magazines. The Japanese-language edition of her first book, *Tokyo Rose: Orphan of the Pacific*, received the Kodansha prize for nonfiction in 1976. Her most recent publication is *Hawaii ni kaketa onna* (the life of Tazuko Iwasaki), a biography of an issei woman who worked as a labor contractor on a Hawaiian plantation.

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Honolulu Star-Bulletin photo

"Masayo Duus writes in rich detail of the ordeals, the sacrifices, and the uncertainties of the combat infantrymen in the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team. *Unlikely Liberators* will rekindle vivid memories for the veterans of the 100th and the 442nd, and provide absorbing reading for those who wish to know what World War II was like for individual soldiers and civilians. Her description of the 'Rescue of the Lost Battalion' is especially detailed, and sheds much light on the controversial nature of this bloody battle. War is declared by politicians, waged by nations, and suffered by ordinary citizens. Masayo Duus tells what war is like for the innocent civilian and individual soldier."

—U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye

"*Unlikely Liberators* is a fascinating and highly readable slice of history which should be told, and told repeatedly. If ever a group of Americans had been driven to the point of despair and rebellion, it was the Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II. Yet, they never turned against the country they called their own because they had faith in the American dream, in American democracy, and in the American system of justice. The men of the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team were so dedicated to these ideals that they were willing to die to preserve them. *Unlikely Liberators* vividly portrays in remarkable realism the officers and men with whom I served. Every American should read Masayo Duus' book to better understand the true spirit of America which sustains its greatness."

—U.S. Senator Spark Matsunaga

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Unlikely Liberators

The Men of the 100th and 442nd

by
Masayo Umezawa Duus

Translated by Peter Duus



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To my parents,
the late Kiichi Umezawa
and Hana Umezawa

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WWII Center

Camp Kohler Fades

By STEVE CAPPS
Special To The Bee

What was once a temporary Japanese-American relocation camp in World War II is gradually disappearing, replaced by the tract homes of a northeastern Sacramento community.

Four buildings and about 35 acres of open fields adjacent to McClellan Air Force Base are all that remains of Camp Kohler in the Foothill Farms area.

Two of the buildings are being used by the base for housing and 30 of the acres have been designated for use as a park.

The only other parcel, adjacent to Interstate 80 east of Madison Avenue, is currently being leveled for the construction of more homes.

At its peak, the camp consisted of 205 buildings, including a 334-bed hospital, on 740 acres, an Air Force spokesman said.

And although most of the residents of Foothill Farms probably don't know the history that lies beneath their feet, other Sacramento residents do.

For 52 days in 1942, more than 4,000 Japanese-Americans from Sacramento and San Joaquin counties were housed at Camp Walerga, which later became Kohler.

The area extended from what

Bee Photo By Gary Fong



Henry Taketa walks through the

is now Palm Avenue to Walerga Road.

The "evacuees" were brought to the camp May 6, 1942. Up until that time, the buildings had been used by migrant farmworkers.

According to U.S. Army figures, the average population of the camp was 3,190, with a peak of 4,739 men, women and children reached May 30, 1942.

On June 26, the entire group was transferred by rail to Tulelake in northern California where one of two permanent relocation camps in the state had been constructed.

Sacramento attorney Henry Taketa was at Camp Walerga. He was 27 years old at the time and had been a resident of Sacramento.

"They took us by bus from the Memorial Auditorium, where we had been told to assemble," he recalled. "I was with my wife's family, and we were all taken to Camp Walerga."

Taketa recalls the facility as basically unimproved.

"It was regular army barracks," he said. "Plumbing was being put in when we got there, but it wasn't finished yet. There



area which was once a Japanese-American relocation camp.

was an outhouse and for a couple of weeks the stench was pretty bad."

Taketa said there was no heating but because it was late spring, temperatures were mild.

Meals were served in a mess hall. A report on the facility published by the Army in 1945 said an average of 34 cents was spent on each resident per day for food.

The area, now packed with houses, schools and two shopping centers, was then "surrounded by jackrabbit fields," he said. "There was a lot of dust

floating around."

Taketa remembers the security precautions at the camp as light. "Anybody could have broken out if they wanted to," he said. "But where would you go if you broke out?"

Only part of the camp was used by the Japanese-Americans, and when they left, the entire facility was occupied by the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

In 1942, the name was changed to Camp Kohler after Frederick Kohler, a signal corpsman killed in March of the same year.

The camp was again opened to

Japanese-Americans in 1945, but this time for servicemen's families and relatives who could find no other place to live.

A letter from the U.S. Department of the Interior dated November 20, 1945, described some of the individuals then using the camp.

Mr. and Mrs. Hayato Kashiwagi, the letter said, were staying there, along with 56 other relatives of Japanese-American servicemen.

"They have four children in the service," the letter said.

See Page B3, Col. 4



Bee File Photo

Fire swept through Camp Kohler June 20, 1947.

Camp Kohler

Continued From Page B1

(ROBERT)

"Ichiji and George volunteered at Granada in 1942...and went through the entire campaign in Italy, France and Germany. Tommy was drafted in Granada in December 1944. Iseko, a daughter, volunteered in November 1943 at Granada for service in the U.S. Army Nurses Corps."

The camp was closed at the end of the war and after the displaced Americans had found homes.

A fire swept through the complex June 20, 1947, destroy-

ing about half of the buildings. In fall of the same year, building and plumbing materials from the camp were offered for sale to U.S. veterans.

In the late 1940s, the Air Force announced a plan to reopen the camp but abandoned the idea in 1951.

Housing developments began in the area in the late 1950s and spread quickly as Sacramentans moved to the suburbs.

There are those who do not want to see the history of Camp Walerga and Kohler go unre-

corded.

According to James Hanely of the Sacramento Museum and History Commission, a three-month study of the area and its history will begin soon.

He said \$6,000 has been allotted for the investigation, which will include the tape recording of statements of individuals who stayed at the facility.

Some kind of landmark or monument, depending on the outcome of the study, will then probably be erected on the 30-acre park site.

Walsall Observer, Friday, October 6, 1978
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A visit to the Mayor's Parlour for Americans Robert and Lillian Kashiwagi, in Walsall for the first time since the war. They are pictured with the Mayor, Councillor Willf Clarke, and Councillor Mrs. Millicent Hadley.

A FRIENDLY TOWN STOPPED GI BLUES

A former American G.I. returned to Walsall this week to reflect on the day he first visited the town — a wounded and lonely man.

Mr. Robert Kashiwagi, who fought with the 442 Regimental Combat Team was stationed at Whittington Barracks to recover after being wounded during the Second World War.

On a Sunday visit to Walsall, he was befriended by the late Mr. Edward Hadley, who saw him on The Bridge looking dejected.

Mr. Hadley took him home, and the two became

friends. After Mr. Kashiwagi returned to America, they wrote regularly.

And Mr. Hadley and his wife, Councillor Mrs. Millicent Hadley visited the Kashiwagi family at their Sacramento home twice, before Mr. Hadley died two years ago.

Now Mr. and Mrs. Kashiwagi are staying with Mrs. Hadley, a Walsall councillor, at 13, Aldis Road, Walsall, and are busy exploring as much of Staffordshire as they can.

It is Mrs. Kashiwagi's first visit to England, and she says: "It's beautiful. The people are so friendly,

and I love the history and culture you find everywhere you go."

Mrs. Kashiwagi, who has two sons and a daughter added that she hoped her children have the opportunity one day to visit England.

Mr. Kashiwagi, when asked what he thought of 1978 - style Walsall, said: "It's grown since the war, with all the modern high-rise buildings. But the people remain as friendly as I remember."

The couple both said that they were overwhelmed by the greenness of the countryside.

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSIONEPINAL AMERICAN CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL

The Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial lies on a plateau 100 feet above the Moselle river in the foothills of the Vosges mountains. The cemetery grounds consist of 48 acres. Use of the site was granted in perpetuity by the French Government, including a right-of-way 550 yards long, leading from highway N-57 to the cemetery.

This cemetery contains 5,255 burials. The remains of 7,300 other War Dead originally buried in this region were returned home at the request of the next-of-kin. There are 424 names on the "Missing" inscribed in the Court of Honor. These gave their lives in the service of their country, but their remains have not been identified. Most of the War Dead buried in this cemetery gave their lives during the advances across central France and up the Rhône valley, the fighting in the Vosges, in the Rhine valley, and across Germany beyond the Rhine.

During World War II, troops of the Seventh Army advanced from the beachheads in southern France, crossed central France by way of the Rhône valley and joined forces with troops from the Normandy invasion at Sombernon, to form a solid front against the enemy. Forging ahead after meeting stiff resistance in Epinal and the Moselle region, troops of the U.S. 45th Division liberated the town of Epinal on September 21, 1944. A battlefield cemetery was established here on 6 October 1944 by the 46th Quartermaster Graves Registration Company. The U.S. troops pushed across the Moselle river, through the Vosges mountains, and crossed the Rhine river into Germany in February 1945.

A simple ceremony was held on 31 July 1949 to solemnize the transfer of responsibility for the permanent construction and maintenance of this cemetery from the American Graves Registration Command to the American Battle Monuments Commission. During the ceremony, the keys to the cemetery were presented to General Thomas North, Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission, by General H. L. Peckham, Commanding General of the American Graves Registration Command. The Epinal cemetery became the second cemetery in the European Theater to receive final burials. The American Battle Monuments Commission is responsible for the maintenance and care of American Overseas Military Cemeteries and Memorials. Construction of this cemetery and memorial began in the Spring of 1950 and was completed in 1956. Dedication ceremonies were held on 7 July 1956.

The approach road to this cemetery starts at the entrance feature on highway N-57 and climbs to the cemetery entrance at the West end. Within the gate and just to the South of the road are the utilities area and the storage reservoirs. The water supply comes from wells near the edge of the Moselle river just North of the cemetery. Directly in front of the Visitors' Building are the Memorial and the Graves area.

The Memorial, rectangular in form, consists of the chapel to the right (East), the covered portico, and the museum room to the left (West). It is 81 feet long, 35 feet wide and 36 feet high. On the South face of the memorial are two large bas-relief panels designed by Malvina Hoffman, sculptress, of New York.

The panel on the left represents the Crusade in Europe. The eagle above the marching soldiers symbolizes the Air Force. Infantry, tanks, artillery, anti-aircraft weapons, parachutes, grenade throwers, battle signal operators, searchlights - all have their place in the composition which shows the United States forces with their face to the enemy. The distant hills suggest the Vosges mountains; in the lower extreme right, the Moselle river is indicated. The panel on the right represents the Survival of the Spirit. The central group in the foreground shows the bowed and kneeling figure of a sorrowing woman - humanity mourning - comforting the fatally wounded soldier. The spirits of those who have given their lives are guided upward by an angel on the rays of light that lead to the sky - and to the words above the entrance. At the left, in the clouds, the Angel of Light carries a torch to guide the brave young souls on their way. The rows of headstones symbolize the earthy burial; above these, the design shows the breaking apart of mortal bonds, and the triumphant victory of the spirit. In the upper right, two angels with their long trumpets herald the approach of the victors. On the face of the attic is an eagle, also the work of Miss Hoffman, with the inscription from Exodus XIX, 4. On the North face of the attic, the eagle is repeated,

The memorial and the walls of the Court of Honor are built of Rocheret, a very hard limestone from the Jura mountain region of eastern France. The floor of the portico is patterned with Rocheret and Roc Argenté, another French limestone from the Jura region. Within the portico and over the entrance to the chapel is a roundel depicting the Lamb of God and the Tablets of Moses; over the entrance to the museum is another roundel containing the Seal of the United States. Both roundels were designed by Miss Hoffman.

In the chapel, the altar is flanked on each side by a group of three flags. The group on the left of the altar (as one faces it) consists of the U.S. flag, the Infantry flag and the Artillery flag. The other group is made up of the U.S. flag, the Air Force flag and the Navy flag. Above it, on the wall, is the Angel of Peace by Miss Hoffman and the inscription from St. Luke I, 79. The teakwood pew at the South end of the chapel has the inscription from St. John X, 28. All of the actual carving of the sculpture at this memorial was executed by Jean Juge of Paris.

The altar and steps within the chapel are of Rouge Antique marble from southern France. The interior walls above the Rouge Antique plinths are of Savonnières French limestone quarried near Verdun. On the rear wall are two roundels - one with a Cross and another with the Tablets of Moses. Between them is an engraved prayer. Evergreen plants and flowers add to the beauty of this little chapel. The main area of the floor is paved with Comblanchien, another French hard limestone from the Jura region. The ceiling is of teakwood.

The major feature of the museum room is the large mosaic map depicting the American and Allied military operations from the landings on the southern coast of France on August 15, 1944, to the junction on September 11 at Sombernon, near Dijon, with the Allied forces coming from Normandy; it further shows their subsequent advances after they turned eastward, crossed the Rhine and swept across Germany, finally joining hands with the spearhead of the U.S. Fifth Army, South of the Brenner Pass. The mosaic, 54 feet long and 14 feet high, of glass mosaic, was designed and fabricated by Eugene Savage of Branford, Connecticut, from data furnished by the American Battle Monuments Commission. The map is laid out in perspective as seen from the South; the lines of longitude and latitude are tilted to accommodate the map to the proportions of the room; thus North is toward the upper right instead of vertically upward. Symbolically, the figures on this semi-circular wall depict the Spirit of Columbia leading the Army, Navy and Air Forces forward to the landings on the South coast of France. The final victory is symbolized by the Angel of Victory with laurel branch above the central altar group composed of the trumpets, the American and French flags emerging from the clouds of war, and the outstretched hands of women who offer flowers as their tribute to the victors.

In the border of the map are the insignia of the military units which participated in the operations in this region: 6th Army Group, 12th Army Group, Third Army, Seventh Army, VI Corps, XV Corps, XXI Corps; 3d, 4th, 28th, 35th, 36th, 42d, 44th, 45th, 63d, 65th, 70th, 71st, 75th, 79th, 80th, 86th, 87th, 90th, 94th, 99th, 100th, 103d Infantry Divisions; 6th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 20th Armored Divisions; 101st Airborne Division. The principal Allied ground, naval and air forces which were engaged are recorded in panels at the ends of the mosaic. On the straight wall adjacent to the South end of the map is a description in English, beneath the torch of Liberty, of these operations.

In the graves area, the 5,255 burials are set in two large plots. Their regular alignment in straight lines upon the smooth green lawn harmonizes with the beautiful and dignified effect of the rectangular lines of the Memorial and the Court of Honor. These Dead, who gave their lives in our country's service, came from every State in the Union and the District of Columbia. In each of two graves are the remains of two known Dead which could not be separately identified. Sixty-nine of the headstones mark the graves of "Unknowns"; one of these graves contains the remains of two comrades-in-arms. Here, also, in 14 instances, two brothers rest side by side.

Separating the two grave plots is the wide mall, flanked by rows of Sycamore Plane trees (*Platanus acerifolia*). At the far end of the mall is the flagpole, 75 feet high, with its bronze and Rocheret limestone base. The paving around it is of cream-colored Ampilly limestone from the Côte d'Or region, with a thirteen-pointed star of black Noir d'Ize from the Pyrénées. The whole of the graves area is surrounded by a wall of local granite with coping of Euville limestone from near Verdun. Magnificent views of the Moselle valley and the beautiful wooded slopes beyond are afforded from the paths running close to this wall. In the Northeast and Southeast corners are small fountains.

Within the cemetery, a few groups of English beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) have been planted in the graves plots. Along the paths are Sycamore Planes (*Platanus acerifolia*), Japanese cherry (*Cerasus serrulata*), Rhododendrons and English Hawthorn (*Crataegus oxyacantha*) have been planted into the edges of the adjacent woods to add color and density. Flanking the Memorial on the North side are two Cedars of Lebanon, as well as a mass of shrubbery. In the arrival court are holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) hedges; in the Court of Honor are box (*Buxus sempervirens*) hedges. Other plantings in informal masses contain rhododendrons, azaleas, forsythia, Scotch broom (*Cytisus scorparius*), cotton-easter and dwarf yews.

On the morning of 12 May 1958, 13 Unknowns in caskets draped with American flags, representing 1 American Unknown from each of the World War II cemeteries in the European Theater, were placed side by side under a specially built canopy, which was placed on the North side of the Memorial building, facing the flagpole. An honor guard was placed around the canopy, until the ceremony took place at 11.00 hours. Upon arrival of the American and specially invited dignitaries, General

Edward J. O'Neill, Commanding General, U.S. Army Communications Zone, Europe, selected one Unknown by ascending the steps and walking slowly past the 13 Unknowns, momentarily pausing in front of each casket. He then descended the steps, where he was given a wreath, and re-ascending the steps, he went to the 5th casket from the East, placed the wreath in front of it and saluted. Taps were blown, followed by an echo.

The ceremony was terminated by the American Military Band playing the funeral Miserere, while the chosen Unknown was carried by the pall bearers behind the Honor and Color Guards to the waiting hearse. A convoy was then formed and the hearse was escorted to Toul-Rosières Air Base in France, where the Unknown was flown to Naples, Italy, for transfer to the destroyer USS BLANDY. The USS BLANDY then left Naples for a rendez-vous in the Atlantic with a Naval Task Group, where the Unknowns for the Pacific and Korean conflict were aboard. Another ceremony was held aboard the ships for the choice of the Unknown Soldier to represent the Pacific and European Theaters. The Task Force then proceeded to Washington where, on Memorial Day 1958, two Unknown Americans who lost their lives on the distant battlefields of World War II and the Korean conflict joined the Unknown Soldier of World War I in Arlington National Cemetery.

Architects for the cemetery and memorial were Delano and Aldrich of New York City. The landscape architect was Homer L. Fry of Austin, Texas.

In the Visitors' Building are rest rooms, office and visitors' room, where next-of-kin and other visitors may sign the guest register and obtain burial or general information.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 10, 1991

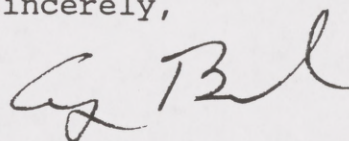
Dear Mr. Kashiwagi:

Thank you for your heartfelt letter. I am pleased to know that you and other Japanese Americans who were interned during World War II have received the reparations granted to you under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

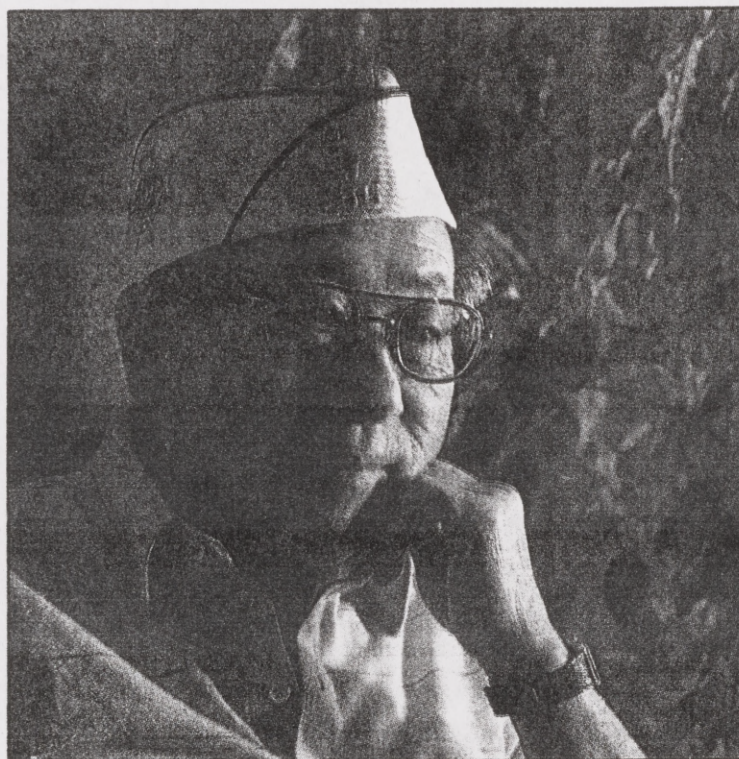
Both your letter and your record of service to our country speak eloquently of your devotion to the ideal of liberty and justice for all. I am inspired by your abiding faith in the promise of America, and I am grateful for your warm words of support.

Mrs. Bush joins me in sending you our best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. Bush", is written below the word "Sincerely,".

Mr. Robert I. Kashiwagi
1212 Monte Vista Way
Sacramento, California 95831



Bee/Lois Bernstein

Robert Kashiwagi received two Purple Hearts during the war.

Japanese-Americans suffered to defend U.S.

By Jeannie Wong
Bee Staff Writer

In the emotion surrounding the 50th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, it is sometimes forgotten that hundreds of Japanese-American soldiers were killed or wounded defending their country.

"When I was interned, I was bedridden. I had a fungus disease of the lung," said Robert Kashiwagi, 72, a Bay Area native who was raised in Woodland.

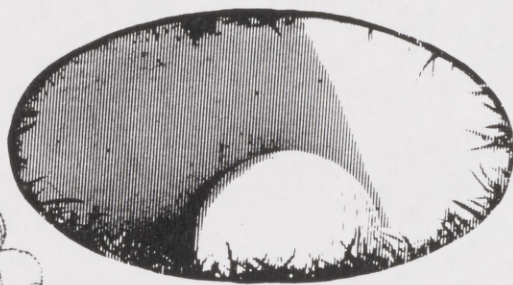
"But when they asked for volunteers to fight, I volunteered from bed. I didn't want to be disloyal. So I joined the 442nd (Regimental Combat Team), which was the only Army unit that was open (to Japanese-Americans). It was a segregated unit, considered a suicide unit. But we turned it around. We had to. It was called survival."

Kashiwagi's elderly parents, meanwhile, remained behind barbed wire in Colorado.

He went on to be awarded two Purple Hearts while fighting with the 442nd, the most decorated military unit for its size and length of service.

But the honor made little difference when he finally was allowed to return home.

"We still lost everything," Kashiwagi said. "My parents had leased a farm and were raising sugar beets and tomatoes. They worked until the last day, still trying to keep that crop going. But when we came back, it was all gone. The government had taken it back. We had nothing."



Hole-in-one Certificate

In recognition of outstanding play
this certificate is presented to

ROBERT KASHIWAGI

who on AUGUST 13 19 84

scored a hole-in-one on the 11TH

hole at CORDOVA GOLF COURSE

John A. Hillerich III

John A. Hillerich III
President

H&B Hillerich & Bradsby Co.,
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In appreciation of your visit on May 4, 1994, Folsom Middle School would like to share this poem with you:

IN RESPONSE TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066: ALL AMERICANS OF JAPANESE DESCENT MUST REPORT TO RELOCATION CENTERS...

Dear Sirs:

Of course I'll come. I've packed my galoshes
and three packets of tomato seeds. Janet calls
them "love apples." My father says where
we're going they won't grow.

I am a fourteen-year-old girl with bad spelling
and a messy room. If it helps any, I will tell
you I have always felt funny using chopsticks
and my favorite food is hot dogs.
My best friend is a white girl named Denise-
we look at boys together. She sat in front of me
all through grade school because of our names:
O'Conner, Ozawa. I know the back of Denise's
head very well. I tell her she's going bald. She
tells me I copy on tests. We're best friends.

I saw Denise today in Geography class.
She was sitting on the other side of the room.
"You're trying to start a war," she said, "giving
secrets away to the Enemy. Why can't you keep
your big mouth shut?" I didn't know what to say.
I gave her a packet of tomato seeds and asked her
to plant them for me, told her when the first
tomato ripens to miss me.

-Dwight Okita